

Y. JANUARY 11, 1995
COLUMBIA
Charles' friend
Camilla to divorce
LONDON (R) — Camilla, the Queen's second wife, is to divorce Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, after 15 years of marriage. The couple's divorce is expected to be finalized in the next few months. The Queen is expected to remain in the public eye, while Charles is expected to focus on his royal duties. The divorce is expected to be a quiet affair, with no public ceremony. The couple's divorce is expected to be a quiet affair, with no public ceremony. The couple's divorce is expected to be a quiet affair, with no public ceremony.

4 Lebanese, Israeli wounded in Lebanon
SIDON (AFP) — An Israeli soldier and four Lebanese civilians were wounded in fighting between guerrillas and Israeli forces in South Lebanon on Wednesday, officials said. Israeli military officials said a soldier was wounded in an exchange of fire with guerrillas near the village of Qunin in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP) said their guerrillas ambushed an Israeli patrol, setting a Merkava tank ablaze and killing or wounding six infantrymen. One woman and three other Lebanese civilians were wounded when Israeli forces and their allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen fired back at the village of Kfar Tibnit near the zone, police said. Security officials in Lebanon said Israeli and SLA forces were trying to track down the guerrillas. One official said the guerrillas had fired about 11 Katyusha rockets around Qunin and there was heavy retaliatory shelling from Israeli positions. Israeli gunners pounded the villages of Hadatha, Aita Al Jabal, Tibito and the outskirts of Qunin after the attack.

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Ex-senator dies
AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi on Wednesday announced the death of former Senator Sheikh Nayef Haditha Al Khreish. The deceased was a known leader of the Central Jordan Bedouin tribes. The late Sheikh Nayef, brother of Minister of State Jamal Khreish, served as senator in 1986 and 1987. Sheikh Nayef, who was 70, is survived by a wife and five children.

Bomb injures two Israeli soldiers
TEL AVIV (AFP) — Two Israeli soldiers sustained minor injuries when a bomb went off near an army checkpoint in the south of the autonomous Gaza Strip early Wednesday, military sources said. The two soldiers were hit by shrapnel and taken to hospital in Israel. The device had been planted near an army checkpoint during the night near the Kissufim dam on the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

'Iran sought contacts with Israel'
TEL AVIV (AFP) — A senior Iranian diplomat has tried to establish contact with an Israeli university professor in the United States, military radio reported Tuesday. Professor Amatzia Baran told the radio an aide from the unnamed diplomat called at his home in Washington last year. The aide proposed a secret hotel meeting. Mr. Amatzia, a specialist on Iraq, the diplomat would fly to Washington by private jet from New York to discuss relations between Tehran and Tel Aviv, Baran said. He informed Israel of the approach and was told to go ahead, but the meeting never came off following the July 18 bombing of a Jewish association in Buenos Aires, which left 95 people dead. Israel blamed Iran.

Israel will not sign NPT — Peres
PARIS (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres made clear on Wednesday that Israel would again refuse to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty when it comes up for extension in Geneva in April. "Israel has said it has no intention of introducing nuclear weapons into the Middle East... but one must first introduce peace to the Middle East," Mr. Peres said.

Dahlan denies threatening settlers
GAZA (R) — Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan denied on Wednesday he threatened Jewish settlers aboard a school bus during a standoff on a main road in Gaza a day earlier. Mr. Dahlan, who heads the Palestinian preventive security service in Gaza, said he blocked the road in front of a school bus and its army escort after they persistently prevented him and other Arab drivers from passing.

Morocco to get centre-right cabinet
RABAT (R) — Morocco's King Hassan on Wednesday ended weeks of political uncertainty by turning his back on the opposition parties and announcing plans to name a new government from the parliamentary centre-right majority. An official statement carried by the Moroccan news agency MAP gave no date for the nomination or give any indication about who would be named prime minister. Diplomats believe Abdul Latif Filali will be asked to remain as head of government. "King Hassan decided to abandon for the time being the constitution of an alternative government and to appoint instead a government represented by the present parliamentary majority," MAP quoted a royal palace statement as saying.

King calls for urgent action to end chaos on Jordan's roads

Government, police force and public have distinct roles in addressing the problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday called on the government and the Public Security Department (PSD) to take immediate measures to end the carnage on the roads of the Kingdom resulting from accidents. Speaking at a meeting with the PSD director general, Lieutenant-General Abdul Rabman Adwan, and his senior assistants in the presence of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King said traffic problems and safety on the roads warranted urgent action. This task requires cooperation on the part of the public and the PSD alike, said the King. Any faults or imbalances in the existing legislation should be addressed drastically, but the Jordanian citizens also have a duty to help ensure safety on the roads by abiding by the laws and by having their vehicles in good order, the King added. King Hussein noted that some of the highways were in need of repair so that they can absorb the heavy traffic on them and withstand climatic conditions in winter time. He said the government would deal with this issue. King Hussein also noted that motorists commit serious violations of traffic rules, causing a waste of human and material resources. He said that the way to end the carnage is to abide by traffic regulations, noting that education on traffic should start at a young age. King Hussein emphasised the role of the drivers training centres in preparing drivers to become a generation of law abiding and responsible people. He stressed that the police force should be provided with proper training to carry out their mission of testing drivers and issuing them driving licences. The King also stressed the need for the PSD to give due attention to the tourist police force to meet the requirements of the coming stage, which is expected to witness a boom in tourism. This force, he added, should be ready to ensure the safety of the visitors of Jordan in a manner that would preserve the country's excellent security image. Interior Minister Salameh Hammam was also present at the PSD meeting. In a meeting with journalists on Dec. 26, King Hussein pledged to make tackling traffic problems in the Kingdom one of the main priorities at the impending programme of reorganisation. The King said he was appalled by what he saw while travelling from Aqaba to Amman along the desert highway a few days ago. Long vehicles were racing along the road ignoring traffic signs, some of which were misplaced anyway and tyres littered the highway, the King noted. "What was amazing," the King said, "was that there were so many police patrols along the highway," and nothing was being done about the hazardous driving conditions. "This is a priority issue," the King said, adding that he was distressed by the number of accidents in the country.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday chairs a meeting at the police headquarters attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Interior Minister Salameh Hammam and Public Security Department (PSD) Chief Lieutenant-General Abdul Rabman Adwan (PSD photo)

First House encounter shows cabinet base in Parliament

Pension law endorsed despite fiery debate

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The cabinet of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday had its first encounter with the Lower House of Parliament with the outcome confirming that the government can count on winning a comfortable parliamentary majority in the upcoming vote of confidence. The focus of the session was a controversial draft law on pension for military personnel which was approved as presented by the government. There was a lengthy and at times heated debate over excluding old pensioners from the raise, promised last month by the government of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali newly retired army personnel. The piece of legislation was finally approved after Sharif Zeid said he shared parliamentarians' concern for the living standards of old pensioners and that the government can increase their pensions through regulations. The final vote on the draft legislation reflected the strength of the parliamentary base of the new government, which includes 17 deputies and has the support of the majority of the members of the four blocs they represent. The draft law, along with a similar legislation for retired civil service personnel, allows for substantial increases in the pensions of army and civil service personnel who retired after Dec. 1, 1994 but gives no such raises to older pensioners. The judicial and financial committees of the Lower House, which adopted a joint recommendation to treat civil pensioners and military personnel equally, had recommended to the House that the draft law be approved as presented by the government. A number of lawmakers said the law was drafted to improve the living standards of retired army personnel in implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives. But, they said, the majority of the people, whose deteriorating living conditions prompted the initiation of the legislation, will not benefit from the move because old pensioners were denied the raise. The prime minister said he agreed on the need "to do old pensioners justice," adding that the government can raise their income through regulations, which he said the government will issue after studies for them are completed. Earlier Sharif Zeid told the House he was looking for more solid cooperation with the legislative authority, saying "consultation and dialogue will mark the government's dealing with the House." "The new era requires the cooperation of all and my government will have an open mind and reach out to all... so that everyone can contribute to building the country and protecting its stability," said Sharif Zeid, stressing his government's commitment to democracy and pluralism. Commitment to democracy and pluralism was also expressed by House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour, who said he looked forward to seeing enhanced cooperation between the government and the House. But not all deputies were that positive in receiving the new government, which is expected to win up to 56 votes of confidence from the House when it seeks its confidence, expectedly next week. In addition to the Islamic Action Front and leftist deputies who oppose the government for ideological and other reasons, voices of dissent emerged in the House yesterday by deputies who feel that they or their constituencies were unjustly kept out of the cabinet. The first to express such an attitude was Deputy Ahmad Al Qudah (Ajloun), who said people in his governorate were surprised that they were left out of the government "as if they do not exist on the map of the Kingdom." In a speech marked by obvious frustration and anger, he said people from Ajloun were denied the

Kabariti is due in Cairo, talks to focus on Jerusalem

By Caroline Farraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti heads to Cairo today for talks with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa on bilateral relations and the status of Jerusalem ahead of a meeting of an Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) committee on the Holy City. Nayef Qadi, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt, told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i in a telephone interview on Wednesday that Mr. Kabariti's visit to Cairo was in response to an invitation extended by Mr. Musa. Mr. Qadi said that in addition to bilateral relations and Arab and Muslim issues, Mr. Kabariti's talks would specifically focus on the issue of Jerusalem and the Islamic shrines in the Holy City. "It is clear that Egypt has a new approach to the issue of Jerusalem and we hope to learn more about it in (Thursday's) meeting," Mr. Qadi said. The Jerusalem Committee of the OIC is scheduled to meet in the Moroccan mountain resort of Ifrane on Jan. 16 and 17 at the level of foreign ministers of the member countries of the panel, which is chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco. The committee met during the OIC summit in Casablanca, Morocco, in December, when Egypt was admitted as a new member. Iraq, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan are also members. The debate over Jerusalem caused friction between the PLO and Jordan during the summit. Jordan wanted the final resolution to take note of its role as guardian of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem. The PLO, supported by some of the influential Arab countries, rejected the Jordanian language and included a reference to Saudi Arabia. The summit adopted a resolution which stressed that Jerusalem was an integral part of Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and declared it capital of a future Palestinian state. Jordan said it had no problems with the resolution but had objections to specific reference to Saudi Arabia without any reference to Jordan's role.

Violence erupts again over W. Bank settlement

Peres says no new settlements; army could pull out in a month, report says

KUFR-AL-DEEK, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops clashed with Palestinians on Wednesday over new Jewish settlement, a thorny issue that has shot to the forefront of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) talks. Earlier a PLO leader threatened to pull out of the peace talks if settlers continued to expand their enclaves in the occupied West Bank. In Paris, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres pledged that Israel would not build any new settlements in the West Bank. "There will be no more settlements. Israel is not going to confiscate land in the West Bank to build settlements," he said, after a meeting with his French counterpart Alain Juppe. "There will be no fundamental investment for new settlements in the West Bank," he added. The Israeli Haaretz newspaper said the Israeli army could pull out of Palestinian towns on the occupied West Bank in less than one month. A withdrawal from towns like Jenin and Bethlehem could take between two weeks and one month following the announcement of a redeployment which is still being negotiated, according to a top army document quoted by Haaretz. The time-scale did not apply to Palestinian towns such as Hebron or Nablus where Jewish settlers also live. Palestinian Minister for International Cooperation Nabil Shaath said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will make the first detailed proposals for an Israeli army redeployment on the West Bank when he meets PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat next week. Mr. Rabin has denied a report on Israel Radio that he would show Mr. Arafat a map of a pull-back from Palestinian towns to allow for autonomy elections to be held. But Dr. Shaath told AFP: "We are expecting to see maps on the table in this coming round of talks. The maps will not be final but for discussion. The Israelis will present specific proposals," he said. "I don't expect that we will reach an agreement straight away. Until now they have not provided any details about redeployment," Dr. Shaath said. The radio said the meeting would take place on Jan. 19, but no official date has been announced. No indication was given by the radio of the scale or timetable for the redeployment which was supposed to have taken place before July 13 under the 1993 declaration of principles for self-rule. "We have not drawn up any map and I have not approved any map," Mr. Rabin said Tuesday. "The reports are false. No decision has been taken on the issue of redeployment." Haaretz said the army would leave Bethlehem, Jenin and a third unnamed town in a staged redeployment but would maintain a presence in other built-up areas where joint patrols would be mounted with Palestinian police. The army would remain in control of Hebron, where several hundred Jewish settlers live right in the middle of 120,000 Palestinians, the daily said. Meanwhile, the army asked the finance ministry to release \$32 million for the construction of new barracks away from Palestinian towns on the West Bank. Senior army officers said the cost of redeploying troops on the West Bank would be around \$200 million, not counting the construction of new roads to allow settlers to avoid Palestinian areas. Israeli radio said the costs would be discussed by Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat on Jan. 19. Witnesses to Wednesday's clashes said a news photographer was struck in the head by a rock, apparently thrown by Palestinian protesters. Israeli soldiers hurled a percussion grenade at stone-throwing Palestinians during the protest. Yasser Arafat, a member of the Palestinian Authority, told Israel Radio Tuesday's expansion of Eilatana settlement in the northern part of the West Bank was pushing the peace process to a dead end. "I think that this is the end of the road either all these activities should stop and the settlers withdraw from the occupied and confiscated land or the Palestinian authority will have to take serious and decisive decisions," he said. About 200 Palestinians tried to break through an army roadblock outside the village of Knfr Al Deek to reach a new building site near the settlement of Alei Zahav, witnesses said. They said Nathan Harnik, a photographer for the Associated Press, was struck in the head by a rock, apparently thrown by a Palestinian protester. He was taken to an army infirmary for treatment. His condition was not immediately known. Palestinian witnesses earlier said soldiers fired shots on the demonstrators. Others at the site said they only heard the explosion of the percussion grenade. No Palestinians were hurt. Dr. Shaath said on Tuesday the Palestinians had asked U.S. diplomats in occupied Jerusalem "to intervene immediately to stop the settlements" and that Mr. Arafat had also contacted the U.S. administration directly. Washington, Israel's main

Ground laid for Mideast bank

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Officials from 37 countries and organisations met Monday and Tuesday to discuss the establishment of a Middle East development bank that will support peace efforts in the region. The Washington meetings will be followed by others, with a summit scheduled to be held in Jordan to wrap up the discussions, the State Department said. The talks were held to follow up on an agreement reached at a regional economic conference in Casablanca in November to study the possibility of creating the Middle East Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development. Israel sent a delegate to the meetings, as did most Arab states except Syria, Libya and Lebanon, which also boycotted the Casablanca conference. The United States, Canada, Japan and the European Union also sent representatives. (Continued on page 7)

Russians attack Grozny palace; Dudayev urges truce

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russian forces launched new attacks on the presidential palace in the battered Chechen capital Grozny on Wednesday while warplanes screamed overhead, sending residents scattering in panic. As the fighting intensified, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev called for an end to the violence and indicated he was willing to enter negotiations with Moscow. Holding a hastily arranged press conference in his first public appearance in nearly two weeks, Mr. Dudayev acknowledged that Chechen independence forces could not hold out against the vastly superior firepower of the Russian military. "Of course we cannot physically resist against a power like Russia," he told reporters at a transformed convalescent home about five kilometres outside Grozny. Asked if he was willing to negotiate with Russia over his government's 1991 declaration of independence from Chechnya, Mr. Dudayev said: "When the house is burning, you have to put the fire out. Then we can see what's left and what must be rebuilt." He added that the notion of independence was "relative," but did not spell out any terms for talks with Moscow. "We could resolve this conflict in a day, even an hour," he said, adding that Russians and Chechens "are both losers" in the war launched when Russia sent troops in to put down the Chechen independence drive on Dec. 11. But Mr. Dudayev, wearing a military uniform and a beret and surrounded by bodyguards armed with Kalashnikov automatic rifles, defiantly warned Moscow that while "Russia has interests in the Caucasus, it cannot ignore our right to life... Even if they tear down the Caucasus mountains, no one can take away the soul of the Chechen people." Mr. Dudayev's last appearance was a television address made about two weeks ago, before Russian forces launched their assault on the Chechen capital. He had not been seen in public for the past two weeks, raising speculation that he had left the capital or even been killed or wounded. Russian President Boris Yeltsin said last week that Moscow was willing to negotiate an end to the conflict, but only on the basis of Chechnya remaining a part of the Russian federation. In Moscow, Russian deputies met in emergency session but shied away from moves to halt the army campaign. In Brussels, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ambassadors registered continuing international concern over the Chechen crisis, calling for the earliest possible end to the violence via a negotiated settlement. The ambassadors appealed to Moscow to use the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to help end the war and urged respect for a newly agreed OSCE code of conduct requiring states to avoid disproportionate use of force against their own people when restoring order. A 48-hour ceasefire, declared by Russia but violated from the start by both sides, was due formally to expire at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) on Thursday with little sign that the

(Continued on page 7)



Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Qusay Qteishat Wednesday holds a press conference at the ministry (Petra photo)

Ministry to enforce strict rules on sales of water to public

AMMAN (Petra) — As of mid-January the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will start stricter monitoring of water trucks and the rates charged by their owners, according to Qusay Qteishat, the ministry's secretary general Wednesday.

Mr. Qteishat told a press conference that each water spring owner selling water to the public will have to pay a JD500 annual fee and will be subject to regular control by the ministry to ensure that the water is potable.

Acting in conjunction with

the health ministry, the water ministry will conduct inspections and test the water. Springs failing the tests will be shut down, said Mr. Qteishat.

Water spring owners have three months to obtain a licence to sell water, he said. He warned that without a licence, no water spring will be permitted to operate.

Water truck operators must also obtain a licence from the Department for Licensing Drivers and Vehicles and affix an official label on the sides of their trucks

which indicates that they are licensed, according to Mr. Qteishat. He added that the Public Security Department (PSD) would also cooperate with the two ministries in ensuring the effectiveness of these measures.

Mr. Qteishat also said that one cubic metre of water sells for 300 fils to the water truck operators, and is to be resold at JD1.75 and JD1.5 to the public in Western Amman and other areas respectively.

He said the new water rates for the trucks would go into effect next week.

Conference discusses how to tackle disabilities, congenital diseases

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The issue of disabilities and congenital diseases, brought further to light by a proposed law to require couples to undergo premarital blood tests, was tackled by concerned institutions Wednesday at the opening of a two-day conference.

In a lecture presented by Professor of Paediatric Medicine at Jordan University Abdul Karim Al Qudrah stressed the need to raise public awareness of the health risks to children born to couples who are blood relatives. "It is very important to educate people about intermarriage risks," Dr. Qudrah said.

Last year the government introduced a draft law that would require couples planning to marry to take blood tests before their nuptials to determine if either partner suffers from any blood disease and other genetic problems that could result in their children being born with congenital malformation or retardation.

Representing the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Information and Communication Officer Sina Bahous said that UNICEF's strategy on childhood disability rests heavily on prevention, early detection and rehabilitation.

"Prevention of disabilities is directly linked to the suc-

cess in the elimination of poverty, disease and hunger and to the realisation of equitable and sustainable development," Dr. Bahous said at the opening of the two-day session organised by the National Federation of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs (BPWC) and UNICEF, and attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary president of the BPWC.

According to Dr. Bahous, approximately 150 million disabled children are among the 500 million disabled people worldwide.

Furthermore, she said that more than 80 per cent of all disabled persons live in developing countries and "less than three per cent of the disabled persons in the world will have some kind of disability," Dr. Bahous said, addressing 130 participants attending the conference.

During the lecture, Dr. Bahous referred to one of UNICEF's projects, the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), which she said is an approach that presents an opportunity to reach a far larger number of children through the active in-



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday attends the first day of a conference on disabilities and congenital diseases. Also on the podium from right to left are Planning and Development Adviser to the

Queen In'am Mufit, President of the Business and Professional Women's Club Hind Abdul Jabbar and UNICEF Information and Communication Officer Sina Bahous (Petra photo)

volvement of their families, neighbourhood and the community.

"The aim is to provide communities with prevention, early detection and rehabilitation services at a cost that the community can eventually bear on its own," she said.

"According to WHO, 70 per cent of all cases of disabled children can be met at the local level if CBR pro-

grammes were implemented," she added.

Hind Abdul Jabbar, president of BPWC, told the gathering that voluntary groups and official organisations should cooperate in spreading awareness through the media and other avenues to curb the rising number of children born with disabilities.

The conference, held at the Inter-Continental Hotel, and

attended by representatives of various ministries and private and public institutions, will discuss five papers: cancer and heredity; early diagnosis of congenital disease before birth; the religious opinions regarding congenital disease and abortion; handicaps and criminal behaviour; and the role of the Diagnosis Centre at the Ministry of Health on preventing handicaps.

Police clear \$100 bills printed in 1990 as controversy lingers

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite official assurances that American banknotes of \$100 denomination printed in 1990 with a slight difference in colour are authentic, the fate of such bills in Jordan appeared destined to remain in controversy for some time on Wednesday.

Several moneychangers said they were sceptical over the results of tests conducted by Jordanian authorities and that they would refuse to deal in the bills before international currency experts certify that the bills were not forged.

But Mutie Al Kahariti, head of the Jordanian Moneychangers Association, said a majority of the exchange houses in Jordan had accepted the verdict of the Anti-Narcotics and Anti-Forgery Department that the bills were genuine.

"We have extensive experience in dealing in currency, and we can easily spot forgeries," said Mr. Kahariti. "In general, Jordanian moneychangers are very

careful and do not allow forgeries to escape them."

The controversy over the \$100 notes printed in 1990 surfaced a few days ago when it was reported that part of \$35,000 presented by a local businessman were slightly yellowish in colour and could be counterfeit.

Mr. Kahariti said his firm was approached by the businessman, whom he did not identify, but the sale did not take place because of "disagreement over the exchange rate."

"We did not turn him down because of any doubt over the validity of the currency," said Mr. Kahariti, whose firm is one of the oldest exchange houses in the country.

Subsequently, the businessman, who is believed to have received the "suspect" notes from a local commercial bank, went to another dealer who suspected the notes were forged. Police were called in, and the bills were put through tests which proved their authenticity, Mr. Kahariti said.

A police statement carried

in the local press on Wednesday assured the public of the authenticity of the \$100 notes printed in 1990.

But, Marwan Al Alami of Alami Exchange said his firm was refusing to accept similar bills. "We have our own system of verifying the authenticity of currency," he said. "We will wait until Swiss or American authorities certify that these notes are genuine."

"We are willing to accept a certification by the embassy of the U.S.," he added. "No U.S. diplomat was available for comment."

According to Mr. Alami, "it is not only the colour but also the texture of the notes that gives rise to suspicions."

"When you have dealt with a particular currency for a long time, you get a feeling the moment you hold a note in your hand," said Mr. Alami. In this case, he said, "there is something amiss."

But Mr. Kahariti insisted that there was "nothing wrong with the paper," and that the "problem is only with the slight difference in colour."

That appeared to narrow down the controversy to the differing approaches of moneychangers rather than any basic question on the authenticity over the currency.

International currency experts agreed that part of the currency printed in 1990 by the U.S. government was slightly lighter in colour, but that the bills were widely accepted. They said Jordanian exchange firms were extremely cautious and the slightest doubt cast on the authenticity of any currency, whether American or otherwise, was enough for them to stop dealing in that currency.

Mr. Kahariti said, however, the number of cases of counterfeit notes surfacing in Jordan had been very low in recent years.

"At my firm, we come across forgeries perhaps once in a month," he said. "Forgeries are not limited to American dollars either," he said, adding that he had found counterfeit European currencies in Jordan.

Jordan was hit by a wave of counterfeit currency, mainly

American dollars, in the late 80s. Law enforcement authorities launched a wide crackdown and busted several gangs engaged in distributing forged currencies. Dozens were jailed; some of them are still serving sentences.

According to experts, the so-called "super-G" notes are the most difficult to detect among the forged currencies circulating in the Middle East. "They are crafted so skillfully that they successfully pass through some of the sophisticated laser machines designed to check currency," said an expert.

Many believe that the "super-G" notes originate in Iran, a country traditionally known for its skillful craftsmen. The Iranian government has reported the busting of several major counterfeit groups in the last few years.

A U.S. congressional panel accused Iraq of prioritizing "high-quality" American banknotes and distributing them in the market with Syrian help. Both Tehran and Damascus denied the charge.

Zarqa police arrest suspects in robbery, imposter cases

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Police warned citizens and especially foreign residents to verify the identification of anyone approaching them, asking for their papers or to enter their houses for official reasons following several incidents in Zarqa and Amman in which four suspects were apprehended for posing as police officers, assistant director of the Zarqa Police Department Colonel Adnan Abdallat said Wednesday.

"Anyone has the right to ask any police officer who requests to search them or their homes or cars for a police identification card," Col. Abdallat said.

According to Col. Abdallat, the latest arrest took place on Monday, when police apprehended four men in their mid-20s suspected of impersonating police officers and robbing foreign labourers, who the colonel declined to identify, in Zarqa and Amman.

He said the suspects on the first incident posed as officials to workers in Ruseifeh. One of the men was wearing a corporal's uniform and carrying a gun, and the other three, in civil uniform, claimed they were police officers. They told the workers they

were checking work permits and searched their house. During the search operation, they stole \$1,000 and JD 130, he said.

The same day, he said they repeated the crime in the same area, and "this time the men took \$300 and JD 120."

In an earlier incident on Jan. 7, he said, the suspects targeted foreign labourers in Al Ghourieh area in Zarqa, and took JD 120.

He said the victims informed police that the suspects were riding a taxi. "We sealed the area and started looking for a taxi carrying a man wearing a policeman's uniform," said Col. Abdallat.

After an intensive search, police pulled over a taxi and apprehended the suspect after a short chase and an exchange of gunfire between the suspect and police.

Col. Abdallat said the suspect had a criminal record and was unemployed; he said the suspect confessed and identified the other three accomplices.

He said police apprehended the other three and recovered 90 per cent of the stolen money.

In another incident that took place on New Year's Eve, Col. Abdallat said, police apprehended a 35-year-old man who attacked a doctor's residence with an automatic gun in Al Ruseifeh area in Zarqa.

According to Col. Abdallat, the suspect, who was carrying a Kalashnikov and covering his face with a stocking, went to the doctor's house in Zarqa and knocked on the door.

"When the doctor opened the door, the masked man tried to enter his house, but the doctor resisted, and the intruder shot several times but missed the doctor, then fled the scene," Col. Abdallat said.

He added, that upon hearing gun shots, a police unit that was near the scene started chasing the intruder. "He began shooting back at us while police were chasing him, but we eventually arrested him after an exchange of fire, and no one was hurt in the incident," he said.

According to Col. Abdallat, police are questioning the intruder to determine his motives.

"It is possible that the man wanted to steal money from the doctor because he owned a private surgery clinic and also worked at a company," he said.

Col. Abdallat said that the doctor had performed surgery on the suspect four months ago. The official however would not relate the incident to the surgery.

Col. Abdallat did not identify any of the suspects, and said that police were investigating the incident.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "The Accidental Tourist" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "Dances Horas" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Center) on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by Al Isha' Band at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital by Palestinian poet Samih Al Qassim at the Phoenix

Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Phase II: Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh. Also showing an exhibition by contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al Funun.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Aqaba.
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Zakaria Barakat at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Saad Khalil at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

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Details of the camping trip:
- Route: Amman - Wadi Rum - Petra - Amman
- Camping in Bedouin Tents in Wadi Rum
- Two day trip and one night stay in Wadi Rum
- Price per person per trip JD 66.00
- Departure time from Amman at 2:00 p.m.
- Departure time from Petra at 5:00 p.m.
- Program on Half Board basis

For more information, please contact Orient Express at: 602-460 & 698-969

Food, Fun, Dance & Entertainment
at the Marriott Sports Bar

Saturday Night
Choose & drink from your favorite local beer, wine or any other local brand for only J.D. 1 per drink.
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

LADIES NIGHT
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A beautiful night dedicated to you. You can dance to our DJ's best selections & get your local drinks for half the price.
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Monday
HUNGRY
All you can eat for as long as you can eat. Enjoy our snacks and hot item buffet free of charge.
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Tuesday Quiz Night
Where is the Marriott Sports Bar?
A. In Amman, Jordan
B. At the Marriott Hotel
C. At the Marriott Hotel in Amman
Don't miss the answer, then jump in for more questions & more fun. Don't forget your prize.
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Friday Sports
Pool & Billiards
To compete you've got to be strong. To win you've got to be smart. & to meet the challenge you've got to be a member of the club.
Members only
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Thursday
Dancing
Let's rumble mumble, let's rock the block, let's samba, let's rap, let's see how you can move it move it. For the minimum charge of JD 3. Couples only.
Hey... Calm down dood.
8:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

Daily Happy Hour
A day's work is over. After a good siesta, welcome the night with a relaxed mood & a happy spirit with a beer for half the price.
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

AMMAN Marriott
P.O. Box 25333 Amman, Jordan Tel. 602-460 698-969

U.S., Pakistan revive security dialogue dormant since 1990

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry and his Pakistani counterpart Aftab Shaaban Meerani agreed Wednesday to revive a security dialogue dormant since 1990.

A U.S. embassy statement said they had decided to re-visit the U.S.-Pakistani consultative group as a forum for annual discussions on "security issues in the post-cold war era."

"The agenda... would include the exchange of perceptions on regional situations, threat briefings, joint military exercises/training of military officers in both countries, and identification of areas of mutual cooperation," it said.

The group met 10 times after it was set up in 1984 but stopped work after Washington cut off military and economic aid five years ago over Pakistan's alleged nuclear ambitions.

Mr. Perry, who arrived in Pakistan Tuesday, met Air Marshal Farooq Feroze, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and army chief General Abdul Waheed in Islamabad Wednesday.

He then flew to the north-western city of Peshawar to meet Pakistani troops in the Khyber Pass on the rugged Afghan border.

U.S. Ambassador John Monjo has visited several rival Afghan leaders in the past month to back United Nations efforts to halt a civil war which has cost about 15,000 lives since 1992.

The United States is

alarmed about growth in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the world's second and third highest producers of opium, from which heroin is made.

According to U.S. estimates, Afghan opium production jumped 39 per cent to 950 tonnes last year from 685 tonnes in 1993. Pakistan's output rose to 160 tonnes from 140 tonnes.

Pakistan, the main conduit for Western support to Afghan Islamic guerrillas fighting Soviet occupation in the 1980s, was the third largest recipient of U.S. aid until 1990.

During his visit, Mr. Perry has also been discussing how the United States and Pakistan can improve cooperation in peacekeeping missions around the world.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Perry had promised that U.S. Marines would provide cover for 6,000 Pakistani U.N. peacekeeping troops when they leave Somalia in March.

He said a force of at least 1,000 U.S. Marines would come ashore in Mogadishu to ensure that the Pakistanis, due to be the last U.N. troops to leave Somalia, can withdraw safely.

U.S. and Pakistani troops served side-by-side — and took casualties — in Somalia, along with other contingents in a U.N. force sent in 1992 to protect humanitarian agencies trying to relieve famine amid civil war in the Horn of Africa country.

Mr. Perry assured Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto when they met Tuesday that Washington would take an even-handed approach towards arch-foes Pakistan and India, a government source said.

He also said he would discuss the strains in relations between the two countries, at loggerheads over Kashmir, during his visit to India which begins Thursday.

Ms. Bhutto said Mr. Perry's visit, the first by a U.S. defence secretary to Pakistan in 12 years, showed U.S.-Pakistani ties were broadening despite differences over nuclear policy.

Mr. Perry arrives in New Delhi Thursday for a three-day visit aimed at forging an Indo-U.S. strategic and military relationship in the post-Cold War era.

Sales of U.S. defence equipment to India's Soviet-equipped armed forces, joint military exercises and India's role in U.N. peacekeeping missions are expected to figure high on the agenda for Mr. Perry's talks here, U.S. officials said.

They said Mr. Perry would stress that with the end of the superpower rivalry, Washington is looking for "even-handed" defence relations with New Delhi and Islamabad.

Persistent tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and U.S. concern over India's nuclear programme would be put on the backburner, they said.

Speaking ahead of Mr. Perry's departure for Islamabad and New Delhi, a senior Defence Department official in Washington said Mr. Perry's visit "is not to address" conflicts between the South Asian rivals.

"We are not going to get into Kashmir and other such contentious regional issues," he said. "The purpose here is to build a defence relationship and build it on a new basis: The Cold War is now over."

"We believe both Pakistan and India are important countries, in their own right and to the United States, and we do not want to see a policy which tilts in the direction of one country or another," the Pentagon official said.

Also Wednesday Pakistani tribesmen dancing in honour of U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry in the Khyber Pass tested his bodyguards' nerves by firing live rounds in the air without warning, witnesses said.

Mr. Perry, on a two-day visit to Pakistan, was watching a display of tribal dancing after lunch at the Khyber Rifles Regimental mess near the rugged Afghan border.

The troupe of a dozen Khattak tribesmen momentarily stunned his security escort by unleashing rhythmic volleys from G-3 assault rifles in time with the music.

"This is a security nightmare," one U.S. official muttered, as Mr. Perry smiled and politely clapped the performance.

Britain wonders: Will Charles divorce Diana to marry Camilla?

LONDON (AFP) — Britain bristled with curiosity Wednesday about the next chapter in the royal family saga after Camilla Parker-Bowles, Prince Charles' long-time girlfriend, announced she and her estranged husband were divorcing.

Would the heir to the throne of England now divorce his own estranged wife, Princess Diana?

And if he did, would he then marry Mrs. Parker-Bowles, with whom he has admitted having had three separate affairs over 25 years?

And if he did, could he still become king?

And if he did, could Mrs. Parker-Bowles become "Queen Camilla?"

Coincidentally, it emerged, the Parker-Bowles' secretly began their legal separation barely a month after that of Prince Charles and Princess Diana in December 1992.

British law requires a two-year separation for uncontested divorce.

Prince Charles' aides insisted that no divorce was in the offing.

And experts said there was no constitutional impediment to a divorced prince marrying a divorcee and becoming king.

There were the inevitable comparisons to Edward VIII, who in 1936 won the heart of romantics the world over when, forced by the government to choose, he abdicated the throne to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

Margaret Holder, who has written extensively on the royal family, noted the "huge similarities," saying, "We are moving towards the same situation."

"The first ball started rolling then with the Simpsons' divorce and now we have the Parker-Bowles' divorce," she said, adding it only remained for the Charles-Diana divorce to be "rather stamped."

"Everyone will be wondering whether he will inflict



A file picture dated Jan. 6, 1994 shows Camilla Parker-Bowles, a close friend of the Prince of Wales, and her husband Andrew (AFP photo)

Camilla on the country as queen, which is as unlikely as a prospect as "Queen Wallis" was in 1936," said Ms. Holder.

But would Prince Charles follow King Edward's example and renounce power, fame and fortune for love? Not jolly likely, was the consensus among royal watchers.

More probably, they said, Prince Charles would seek to avail himself of the more relaxed social code of the late 20th century and have his cake and eat it.

Should the royal couple divorce, said observers, Prince Charles would likely continue seeing Mrs. Parker-Bowles, but without benefit of holy matrimony.

There were serious considerations. A royal marriage is primarily an event of state involving the government,

the opposition, the Anglican Church of which the monarch is head, and the Commonwealth, in which the monarch is head of state of 14 countries.

It would concern Prince Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, whose consent would be required.

But, in an era where the monarchy has come under unprecedented criticism, with one Briton out of two doubtful it can survive another 50 years, public opinion will probably be the chief determining factor in what Prince Charles does.

"The country is ready for a divorced monarch, but not a remarried monarch," said Nigel Evans, editor of Majesty magazine.

"I don't think the country is ready for Camilla to be the next queen," he said.

U.S. tells Russia it will test new weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States notified Russia Tuesday that it will begin testing a tactical missile defence system next month, even though talks with Moscow on the issue have not been completed, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

The paper quoted senior officials as saying similar notification had been sent to Congress, where key members of both parties have their own reservations about the short-range missile defence programme.

Development of the so-called Theatre High Altitude Area Defence System, or THAAD, is a cornerstone of

President Bill Clinton's administration's military planning and officials hope to resume negotiations with Moscow in March on how to reconcile the system with the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

Democrats fear deployment of the system could violate the treaty, while Republicans are concerned that negotiations with Russia could result in restrictions that would bar development of still more advanced systems.

Senior House Republicans asked President Clinton last week to suspend the negotiations with Russia until they could review the entire issue.

including a possible revival of the so-called Star Wars programme.

The paper said the administration officials were confident 14 flight tests of THAAD planned over the next two years would not violate the ABM treaty or breach any agreement with Russia, because they are demonstration tests and not tests of a complete system that could process data from space-based sensors.

If "quoted" White House officials as saying Mr. Clinton ordered the tests to proceed after accepting a Defence Department finding that they will be legal under the treaty.

Indian gas well blaze rages for 4th day

HYDERABAD, India (R) — A scorching blaze in a gas well burned out of control for the fourth day Wednesday, reaching 500 degrees Celsius (930 degrees Fahrenheit), as Indian authorities awaited the arrival of a crack U.S. firefighting team.

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) said efforts to put out the fire in the well, in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, were hampered by the intense heat.

"The scorching heat is felt even from a distance of half a kilometre (a third of a mile)," said A.M. Bhat, an ONGC official who is supervising firefighting operations.

The well is next to the remote Bodasakurru village in the coastal east Godavari District, about 500 kilometres east of the state capital, Hyderabad.

"The fire is in an area of five to 10 square metres and the flames are still rising up to 100 metres into the sky," Mr. Bhat said.

The fire erupted Sunday evening as gas seeped from a depth of 2,777 metres (9,110 feet) during a drilling operation.

Hot, black, billowing smoke singed nearby coconut groves and turned lush green paddy fields to grey, residents said.

Spain's Socialists take legal action over claims it led dirty war

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's Socialist government went to court to battle allegations it set up hit squads to kill Basque separatists in the 1980s, filing a libel suit against the failed former policeman behind the accusations.

Facing one of the most serious political crises in its 12 years in power, the Socialist government "is exercising its right to self-defence," said Secretary of State for Justice Maria Teresa Fernandez de Vega.

The suit, filed late Tuesday, targets Jose Amedo, a former policeman who accused the government of being behind the creation of the Anti-terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL), which killed 24 suspected Basque separat-

ists in a series of terrorist attacks.

But Judge Fernandez de Vega said the government was also considering taking libel action against the leader and a deputy of the opposition United Left coalition who accused Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of personal involvement in the creation of GAL.

Mr. Amedo, who unleashed the uproar with allegations made in a series of interviews with the newspaper El Mundo, was sentenced in 1991 to 108 years in prison for involvement in six attempted murders organised by the GAL.

Mr. Gonzalez denied any involvement in GAL activities in a televised address

Monday night, saying he had never "authorised or tolerated" the actions of the GAL and would file suit against anyone who claims otherwise.

Mr. Gonzalez also denied any intention of calling early elections as urged by the right-wing opposition Popular Party.

But public support does not seem to be on his side according to the latest poll published Wednesday in the daily El Pais.

The survey indicated that 52 per cent of Spaniards think Mr. Gonzalez is lying when he says his government was not involved with the GAL and 49 per cent favour early elections, compared to 36 per cent who wanted new polls.

Christopher denies he will resign

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Tuesday denied fresh rumours he was planning to resign but privately, U.S. officials said he wanted to do so at the end of 1994 but had been dissuaded by the White House.

"I'll just repeat and bore you with the same answer I've given many times before," Mr. Christopher told a brief news conference ahead of talks with Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Yoshi Kono.

"I have a very important agenda for next year which I'm committed to and I'm working hard on. I'm doing extensive consultations on Capitol Hill to try to be able to carry out this agenda in the new bipartisan circumstances that exist," he said, referring to the Republican-controlled Congress.

"So I just have to say... the rumours of my imminent departure are neither new nor accurate," he added.

The Boston Globe, in a front-page story, said Christopher told his closest aides before Christmas he intended soon to leave the job he has described as the capstone of his career.

A White House official

told Reuters that after two difficult years as secretary of state in which he endured often withering criticism, Mr. Christopher in December was indeed "mulling over his future, assessing where he stood... it was not clear he was staying."

But the White House, which is making a major effort to get Bill Clinton's endangered presidency back on track with a renewed focus on domestic issues, "doesn't want to deal with this. They aren't interested in talking about Christopher's departure," he said.

Meanwhile, strengthening his hand for the 1996 election, President Clinton plans to put the battered Democratic Party under an ally who would help him fight the coming political wars, the White House said Tuesday.

In a strategic move similar to one Republican President Ronald Reagan made in the 1980s, Mr. Clinton would have Democratic Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, a seasoned and wily veteran of Washington politics, serve as part-time "general chairman" and overseer of the party.

Mr. Clinton planned to name Don Fowler, a former chief of South Carolina,

as traditional "national chairman" running the party's day-to-day operations.

The choice of Sen. Dodd was a clear signal of how the president meant to re-establish his grip over a party demoralised by its election defeat in November last year, when it lost control of Congress to the Republicans for the first time in 40 years.

Mr. Clinton needs to whip the party into fighting shape for what could be an uphill run for his own re-election. The Democrats have been without a leader since year's end, when the resignation of former Chairman David Wilhelms, who had been criticised for ineffectiveness, took effect.

Mr. Reagan, in the 1980s, elevated Nevada Sen. Paul Laxalt, a close personal friend and conservative soulmate, to a similar "general chairman" post in the Republican hierarchy.

While Mr. Clinton's choice of Sen. Dodd was not an exact parallel — Sen. Dodd being much more the feisty activist than Sen. Laxalt — it was the same sort of move, tailored to Mr. Clinton's needs for an energetic and trustworthy ally and field general.

Manila police arrest protesters at Papal residence

MANILA (R) — Police arrested 21 women staging a protest outside the residence of the Pope John Paul II on Wednesday on the eve of Pope John Paul II's visit to the Philippines.

The women had wanted to present a letter to the Pope urging him to seek the release of 291 political prisoners detained in Philippine jails.

Dozens of the prisoners have been on a hunger-strike for nine days demanding they be freed.

The Pope is to arrive in Manila Thursday for a four-day visit at the start of a four-nation Asia-Pacific tour.

"We urge you as the leader of one of the most powerful churches in the world today to listen to the voices of hundreds of prisoners of conscience still languishing in jail," said the demonstrators, who belong to the militant women's group Gabriela.

The prisoners, most of whom belong to leftist groups, have accused the government of unjustly detaining them by charging them with common crimes, such as murder.

The police accused the women of illegal assembly.

Philippine police have arrested two people suspected of posing a threat to the security of Pope John Paul II, President Fidel Ramos said Wednesday.

Mr. Ramos neither named the suspects nor gave their nationalities, saying only that further details would be disclosed later.

"A certain threat has been uncovered, a couple of people have been arrested with incriminating evidence," Mr. Ramos told his weekly news conference.

Manila newspapers, quoting police sources, said a Pakistani was arrested at the weekend while making bombs he planned to use in an attempt to kill the 74-year-old Pontiff.

The Pope is to arrive in Manila Thursday at the start of a gruelling 33,415 kilometres Asia-Pacific trip also taking in Papua New Guinea, Australia and Sri Lanka.

In Manila, he will take part in the celebration of World Youth Day, when up to a million young people from dozens of nations will listen to his message Sunday.

Mr. Ramos said the government had mustered a security force of 20,000 police to protect the Pope and the youth delegates.

"We have assured the holy father and his delegation and all his admirers, supporters and friends all over the world that the holy father will be safe during his visit to the Philippines," Mr. Ramos said.

Newspapers said police seized four bombs and a priest's robes from the apartment of the arrested Pakistani, who reportedly arrived in the Philippines on Dec. 6.

Residents of the building said police were alerted Friday night when smoke began to leak out of the Pakistan's sixth floor room.

Police also found bomb-making equipment, timing devices, several Bibles and a picture of the Pontiff inside, the newspapers said.

The apartment building is about 300 metres from the residence of the Vatican's envoy to the Philippines, where the Pontiff is to stay during his visit. It stands on one of the possible routes the Pope may

use when he travels from the residence of Luneta Park to address the Youth Day delegates and celebrate mass.

Police and intelligence officials have so far declined to confirm the newspaper reports.

The government recently alerted its embassies abroad to be on the lookout for 109 suspected terrorists who might try to come to the Philippines during the Pope's four-day visit.

Officials said the 109 names were provided by the Vatican.

The Pope will be travelling around Manila in a locally built "Popemobile," capable of withstanding attack by hand grenades and machine guns, officials said.

They say the deployment of the 20,000-strong security force around the Pope will make him the most tightly guarded foreign dignitary ever to visit Asia's only mainly Christian nation.

The Security deployment is much larger than that mustered for other heads of state, including U.S. President Bill Clinton, who visited Manila last year, police Colonel Jose Bandong said.

Mensa chapter under fire for 'Nazi' essays

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A local chapter of Mensa, the U.S. organisation for people with high IQs, has sparked outrage for publishing articles advocating the extermination of homeless, retarded and old people. Some of the chapter's 2,000 members wrote angry letters after essays appeared in the November issue of Mensa's newsletter called "Lament." "We have these Nazi ideas being published in a publication that goes everywhere," Betty Schneider said. "I don't want to be identified with an organisation that does this type of thing," she said. One essay in Lament said: "A piece of meat in the shape of a man but without a mind is not a human being, whether the body be deathly ill, damaged by accident, mentally blank because of brain deficiency, or criminally insane. Those people who are so mentally defective that they cannot live in society should, as soon as they are identified as defective, be humanely dispatched." The American Mensa Society accepts only people whose IQ is in the top 2 per cent of the population.

15-year-old girl arrested for pimping

TAIPEI (AFP) — A 15-year-old Taiwanese girl has been arrested here for running a prostitution ring, police said Wednesday. The girl, identified only as "Lee" because she is a minor, was sent to a juvenile court Wednesday on charges of setting up a company called the "Night Kingdom" last November as a front for prostitution. The suspect allegedly arranged for four of her female employees to entertain customers at two unlicensed bars, skimming 15 per cent of the money earned by the employees, who were all older than her. Police said that after her arrest Tuesday, the girl maintained that she did not violate the law and was just running a normal business. Prostitution is banned in Taiwan.

3-year-old boy expelled from school for sexual abuse

LONDON (AFP) — A three-year-old boy was expelled from an exclusive nursery school for having sexually molested a three-year-old classmate, it emerged Tuesday. The child was summarily kicked out of the Rose Hill School in Cotswolds, Gloucestershire, after he allegedly touched a classmate's genitals and asked her for sex, according to a High Court civil suit. The suit was brought by the boy's parents, who contend the dismissal was unjustified, that they were not given a chance to respond to the allegations and who are seeking their son's reinstatement plus damages. According to the court writ, the girl's mother had complained to headmaster Richard Lyne-Parks that the boy had "interfered" with her daughter and asked for sex. The next day, said the suit, Mr. Lyne-Parks expelled the boy. In a telephone interview with the Daily Express, the headmaster confirmed that the 163-year-old school was facing legal action over the expulsion, but declined to discuss details. "For a school of our ability to take the action that was taken was not done without full due legal consultation," he told the Express. "These things are exceedingly difficult and exceedingly delicate." Jackie Miller, of the Professional Association of Teachers, said, "I can't believe a three-year-old is capable of deliberately doing this. He has clearly seen something he shouldn't have had access to and is copying it."

Chinese spend \$1.2b on cosmetics

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Chinese consumers are becoming increasingly conscious of their looks, spending 10 billion yuan (\$1.19 billion) on cosmetics last year, a newspaper reported Tuesday. But Chinese women are also baffled at the wide choice available and find shop assistants little help, the Youth Daily said. The newspaper quoted experts as saying that Chinese people had just begun to spend money on beauty and skincare products and most consumers were still ignorant about skincare.

Mensa chapter under fire for Nazi essays

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A U.S. organisation for people with high IQs has been accused of publishing essays advocating the extermination of Jews, homosexuals and other groups. The group, the Mensa chapter in Los Angeles, has been accused of publishing essays in its newsletter that advocate the extermination of Jews, homosexuals and other groups. The group, the Mensa chapter in Los Angeles, has been accused of publishing essays in its newsletter that advocate the extermination of Jews, homosexuals and other groups.

5-year-old girl arrested for pimping

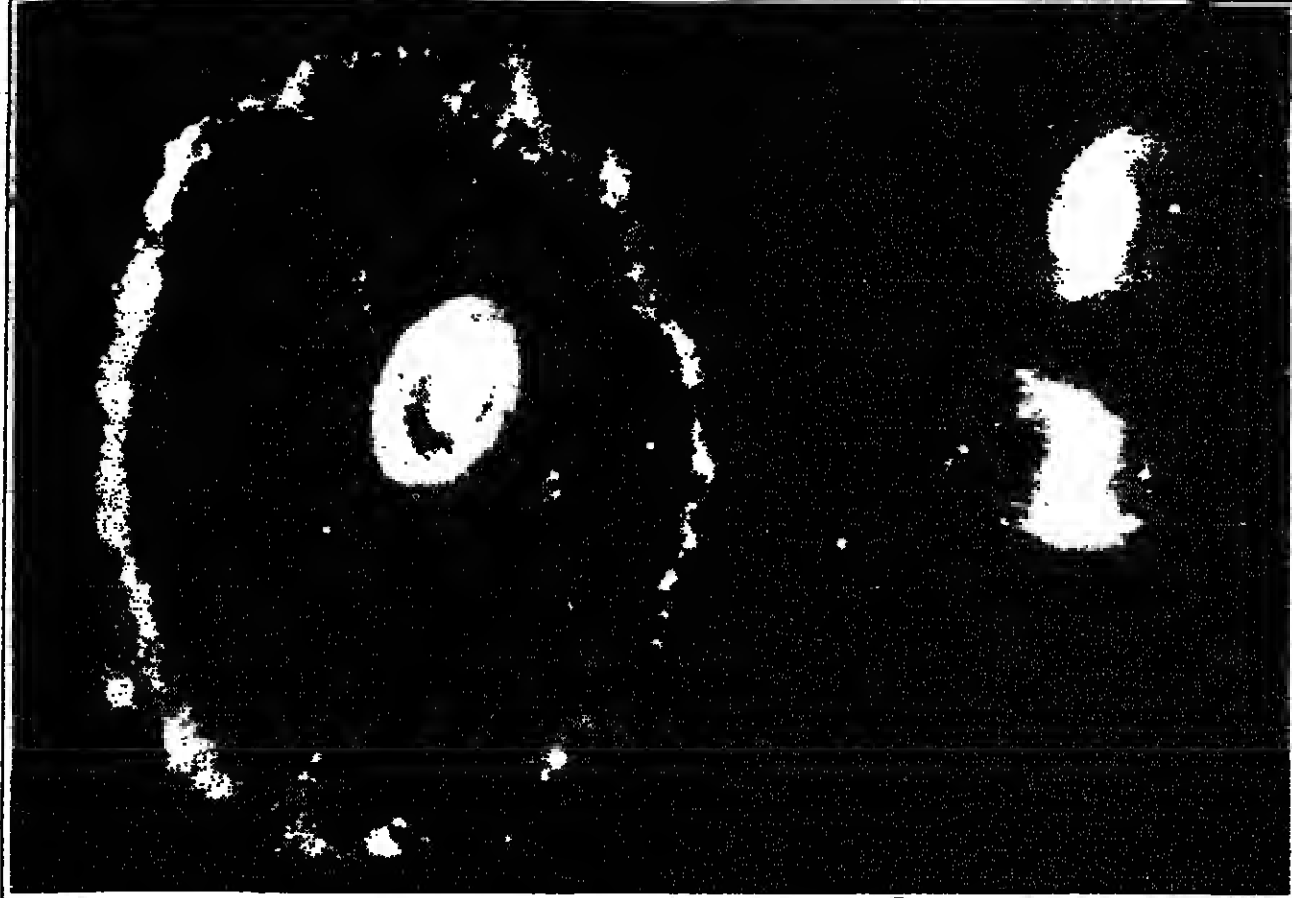
AIPEI (AP) — A 5-year-old girl has been arrested for pimping. The girl, who is from a poor family, was found by police in a street in a city in China. She was accused of pimping other children in the area. The girl's parents were also arrested and charged with neglect.

year-old boy expelled from school for sexual abuse

LONDON (AP) — A 12-year-old boy has been expelled from school for sexual abuse. The boy, who is from a poor family, was found by police in a street in a city in England. He was accused of sexual abuse of other children in the area. The boy's parents were also arrested and charged with neglect.

Chinese spend 2b on cosmetics

SHANGHAI (AP) — Chinese consumers are spending increasingly on cosmetics. The market for cosmetics in China is growing rapidly, with many new brands entering the market. Consumers are spending more on cosmetics, particularly on high-end brands. The market for cosmetics in China is growing rapidly, with many new brands entering the market.



GALAXIES COLLIDE: This Hubble space telescope image released by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) shows a head-on collision between two galaxies in a true colour image of the Cartwheel Galaxy, located 500-million light years from Earth in the constellation Sculptor. According to NASA the ring-like appearance is a direct result of an intruder galaxy "possibly one of the two objects to the right of the ring" that passed through the core of the host galaxy (AFP photo)

Colombo accused of breaking truce pact

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's separatist Tamil Tigers accused the government Wednesday of violating a truce pact by restricting fishing in the troubled northern waters, as a cabinet minister called for a permanent ceasefire.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said over their clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, that President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government violated their agreement by not totally lifting a ban on fishing.

"We agreed to keep away from army and navy camps in the northeast... But the government has violated the agreement by limiting fishing for 12 hours during daytime," the radio said in a broadcast monitored by Tamil civilians.

The Tigers said their chief negotiator, Thamil Chelvam, who is also the head of the LTTE political section, had already lodged a protest with the head of the government peace team, Kusumisi Balapatabendi.

Following the truce agreement, which went into effect Sunday, the navy declared areas where fishing could be carried out in shallow waters. However, a ban on deep sea fishing was not lifted.

The Tiger protest came as Energy Minister Anuraudha Ratwatte expressed the hope that the government would be able to establish a permanent "cessation of hostilities" with Tigers who have been battling for independence since 1972.

A third round of talks between the government and the LTTE is scheduled for Saturday in the Tiger-held northern Jaffna peninsula.

Mr. Ratwatte said the truce was holding satisfactorily and the government would shortly name two monitoring committees headed by Norwegian nationals to observe the pact.

"We will have two more committees when the Canadian representatives arrive here in the next 72 hours," Mr. Ratwatte told reporters here Wednesday. He said Colombo was awaiting nominees from the Netherlands.

Mr. Ratwatte, who is also the deputy minister of defence under Mrs. Kumaratunga, said the government believed it could extend the "cessation of hostilities" with the Tigers.

The pact signed by Mrs. Kumaratunga and LTTE supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran gave no time limit for the truce, but Mrs. Kumaratunga declared Friday that it could initially be for two weeks.

"We are convinced that the LTTE is doing its best to ensure that their cadres observe the cessation of hostilities agreement," Mr. Ratwatte said adding that violations so far had been minor.

In the eastern Batticaloa district, the top security force commander Major General H.S. Hapuarachi met with LTTE area leader Karikalan at a Roman Catholic Church

Wednesday, defence officials said.

"They had a brief meeting to discuss ways of avoiding accidental violations of the pact. Both had tea and it was a cordial meeting," the official said.

The military has listed as the main violation a grenade attack on their troops outside the northeastern Welio Oya army camp Tuesday. Mr. Ratwatte denied the army fired back but defence sources said there was a 15-minute firefight.

Military commanders have privately expressed concern over construction activity along Tiger defence lines, especially in the island's northern province where the rebels have been enjoying an advantage over security forces.

Meanwhile unidentified attackers set fire to a shrine, room and damaged statues of the Buddha at an attempt outside Sri Lanka's capital Colombo Wednesday, a day after a fire at a Catholic Church.

Some residents linked the temple attack and the church fire to Pope John Paul's visit this month and Buddhist anger over his comments on their religion in his best-selling book.

But Inspector-General of Police Frank Silva denied there was any connection. "I can't read any connection. It has not been established by the evidence received so far of the two incidents," he told reporters.

Angola's main air base, Catumbela, was rocked by several explosions Tuesday night, a government source said Wednesday.

"There was a huge fire and we could hear explosions all night. Everyone could hear it in Benguela," he said by telephone from the Western coastal city of Benguela.

The cause of the explosions was not immediately known. Catumbela is 30 kilometres north of Benguela and most of Angola's estimated 130 operational MiG and Sukhoi fighter aircraft were based there, the sources said.

But he quoted firefighters as saying they believe none of the aircraft had been damaged in the explosions.

The firemen were working all through the night and it seems to be under control now," he said Wednesday morning.

An Antonov transport aircraft landed at Catumbela Tuesday evening and the explosions started soon afterwards, he said.

The aircraft based in Catumbela were used in bombing raids against UNITA rebel positions before the signing of a ceasefire between the Angolan government and UNITA two months ago halting nearly 20 years of civil war.

An agreement between military chiefs of the Angolan army and UNITA to strengthen a recent ceasefire has boosted the chances for a peace summit between President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

A channel for regular communications is to be opened between the government chief of staff, General Jose Baptista De Matos, and his UNITA counterpart, General Arlindo Chienda Pena "Ben-Ben", under their accord, reached at a meeting Tuesday.

The two men called for an immediate end to all clashes and agreed to disengage their armies, particularly in sensitive areas such as Uige province in the north, Huambo in the centre and Luena in the east, as well as exchanging prisoners.

Groups of officers from both the army and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) are to be formed to oversee demining operations. The government estimates that more than 15 million mines have been laid during the civil war, which began in 1975.

During the talks at Chipita in Huambo province, Gen. Dos Santos said that "about 300" South African mercenaries had been fighting with government soldiers and a slightly smaller number with UNITA, which was once backed by the former apartheid regimes in Pretoria. Gen. "Ben-Ben" refuted the charge.

Gen. Dos Santos and Gen. "Ben-Ben" are due to hold further talks on Jan. 25, either at Caála in Huambo province or at Wako in the central western province of Cuanza Sul.

The U.S. delegation, during their one-week stay in Pyongyang, was likely to stress the importance of progress in inter-Korean dialogue as well as fulfillment of the nuclear accord, the South Korean official was quoted as saying.

A spokesman for Honam Oil Refinery Co Ltd said the 67,436-deadweight tonne Da Qing was one of two tankers since 1972.

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"We are convinced that the LTTE is doing its best to ensure that their cadres observe the cessation of hostilities agreement," Mr. Ratwatte said adding that violations so far had been minor.

In the eastern Batticaloa district, the top security force commander Major General H.S. Hapuarachi met with LTTE area leader Karikalan at a Roman Catholic Church

Wednesday, defence officials said.

"They had a brief meeting to discuss ways of avoiding accidental violations of the pact. Both had tea and it was a cordial meeting," the official said.

The military has listed as the main violation a grenade attack on their troops outside the northeastern Welio Oya army camp Tuesday. Mr. Ratwatte denied the army fired back but defence sources said there was a 15-minute firefight.

Military commanders have privately expressed concern over construction activity along Tiger defence lines, especially in the island's northern province where the rebels have been enjoying an advantage over security forces.

Meanwhile unidentified attackers set fire to a shrine, room and damaged statues of the Buddha at an attempt outside Sri Lanka's capital Colombo Wednesday, a day after a fire at a Catholic Church.

Some residents linked the temple attack and the church fire to Pope John Paul's visit this month and Buddhist anger over his comments on their religion in his best-selling book.

But Inspector-General of Police Frank Silva denied there was any connection. "I can't read any connection. It has not been established by the evidence received so far of the two incidents," he told reporters.

Angola's main air base, Catumbela, was rocked by several explosions Tuesday night, a government source said Wednesday.

"There was a huge fire and we could hear explosions all night. Everyone could hear it in Benguela," he said by telephone from the Western coastal city of Benguela.

The cause of the explosions was not immediately known. Catumbela is 30 kilometres north of Benguela and most of Angola's estimated 130 operational MiG and Sukhoi fighter aircraft were based there, the sources said.

But he quoted firefighters as saying they believe none of the aircraft had been damaged in the explosions.

The firemen were working all through the night and it seems to be under control now," he said Wednesday morning.

An Antonov transport aircraft landed at Catumbela Tuesday evening and the explosions started soon afterwards, he said.

The aircraft based in Catumbela were used in bombing raids against UNITA rebel positions before the signing of a ceasefire between the Angolan government and UNITA two months ago halting nearly 20 years of civil war.

An agreement between military chiefs of the Angolan army and UNITA to strengthen a recent ceasefire has boosted the chances for a peace summit between President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

A channel for regular communications is to be opened between the government chief of staff, General Jose Baptista De Matos, and his UNITA counterpart, General Arlindo Chienda Pena "Ben-Ben", under their accord, reached at a meeting Tuesday.

The two men called for an immediate end to all clashes and agreed to disengage their armies, particularly in sensitive areas such as Uige province in the north, Huambo in the centre and Luena in the east, as well as exchanging prisoners.

Groups of officers from both the army and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) are to be formed to oversee demining operations. The government estimates that more than 15 million mines have been laid during the civil war, which began in 1975.

During the talks at Chipita in Huambo province, Gen. Dos Santos said that "about 300" South African mercenaries had been fighting with government soldiers and a slightly smaller number with UNITA, which was once backed by the former apartheid regimes in Pretoria. Gen. "Ben-Ben" refuted the charge.

Gen. Dos Santos and Gen. "Ben-Ben" are due to hold further talks on Jan. 25, either at Caála in Huambo province or at Wako in the central western province of Cuanza Sul.

The U.S. delegation, during their one-week stay in Pyongyang, was likely to stress the importance of progress in inter-Korean dialogue as well as fulfillment of the nuclear accord, the South Korean official was quoted as saying.

A spokesman for Honam Oil Refinery Co Ltd said the 67,436-deadweight tonne Da Qing was one of two tankers since 1972.

U.N., contact group push on with Bosnia peace process

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Speaking of Bosnia, Mr. Valentic said all parties — especially Serbia and Montenegro — must reach a peaceful political settlement in the remaining three and a half months of the four-month ceasefire.

"If not, there is a danger of an escalation of the conflict which might extend to the whole former Yugoslavia or even outside," he said.

SARAJEVO (R) — United Nations officials and mediators from the international "contact group" on Bosnia sought to push forward the faltering peace process Wednesday as the latest ceasefire came under increasing pressure.

Officials from the five contact group nations — the United States, Russia, Germany, Britain and France — were scheduled to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade before heading for Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale.

At Sarajevo Airport, army commanders from the Serb, Croat and Muslim armies met under the chairmanship of the U.N. military commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, in an attempt to put the ceasefire process back on track.

The four-month cessation of hostilities agreement signed on Dec. 31 has been threatened by an interminable row between the Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian government army over the status of a demilitarised zone near Sarajevo.

The United Nations had dispatched yet another foot patrol to the Mount Igman demilitarised zone to verify whether government troops had vacated it as promised under the truce.

U.N. sources said 151 Bosnian troops were caught inside the zone by a U.N. patrol Monday night after government leaders had insisted the withdrawal had been completed.

U.N. military spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon said the ceasefire was generally holding in most of Bosnia, except for the northwestern enclave of Bihać.

U.N. observers counted 200 artillery explosions and a similar number of small arms bursts around Velika Kladusa in the north of the Bihać pocket, marking a sharp resurgence of fighting there.

The clashes appeared to pit the Bosnian government army against Muslim rebels under warlord Fikret Abdic but not rebel Krajina Serbs from Croatia who were previously involved.

"We have indications, although they are not yet confirmed because our observers can't move around freely, that the Krajina Serbs have withdrawn progressively from the area over the past few days," Maj. Gourmelon said.

A U.N. official in the Bihać enclave told Reuters sporadic artillery and small arms fire could be heard Wednesday.

Other incidents elsewhere in Bosnia made clear that the ceasefire agreement was already showing signs of strain.

Increased Bosnian government troop movements were noticed in southwestern Bosnia, in the Mostar region in particular.

Tensions rose around the U.N.-protected Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia when Bosnian Serbs started moving troops close to front lines.

"This provoked small arms fire from the Bosnian government side," Maj. Gourmelon told reporters.

He also said Bosnian government troops were blocking the U.N.-controlled Tuzla airfield in northern Bosnia in a protest over the stationing of a Serb liaison officer there under terms of the truce accord.

He said government soldiers were violating the spirit of the deal signed by their high command which provided in part for the presence of Serb liaison officers in U.N. compounds situated within government territory.

"Both warring parties agreed to an exchange of liaison officers. This situation is unacceptable," Maj. Gourmelon said.

The contact group envoys agreed on their trip to Serbia and Bosnia after a meeting in Paris where they heard a report from U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, who held tough talks with Bosnian government leaders earlier this week.

The mood was one of determination to give the peace process another

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Track in trouble

In light of the recent killing of nine Palestinians at the hands of Israeli security forces, the failure of the latest Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Cairo came as no surprise to observers. What made the latest killings even more ominous is the fact that Israeli undercover agents were deployed to seek out Palestinians opposed to the PLO-Israeli peace accord and liquidate them. This Israeli posture will surely undermine the legitimacy of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and make a mockery of self-rule negotiations. With the Palestinian elections still off the target date agreed upon by the two sides, redeployment of Israeli soldiers nowhere in sight and settlement activity still continuing, it would seem that the Palestinian-Israeli track is once again dangerously stalemated.

We would like nothing better than to see negotiations restarting in earnest between Israeli and Palestinian teams on the basis and in the spirit of their 1993 Oslo accord. But it appears that outside intervention has become necessary to put the Palestinian-Israeli talks on track again. Left alone, the parties would only drift further apart, to a point probably beyond redemption. Before anything is done, however, Israelis must cease and desist from taking the lives of Palestinians on a systematic basis, and they must stop their colonisation programme in the West Bank. Institutionalisation of state terrorism and continued expropriation of Palestinian land are the last thing the parties need, especially in view of the precarious situation and negative climate that exist in the region generally.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IBRAHIM AL Absi, a writer in Al Ra'i, Wednesday strongly attacked Israel for delaying the implementation of the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians. If after two years on the signing of the Oslo deal, Israel is still dragging its feet on redeploying its forces and paving the ground for the Palestine National Authority to take over the responsibility for the Palestinian people, we wonder when will the Rabin government be ready to implement the final phase of that deal, granting the Palestinians a greater measure of freedom and enabling them to run their own affairs, said the writer. It is clear to all that Israel, through its continued occupation of Arab lands, its repressive measures against the Palestinians, and through its blockade imposed on Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, is delaying the implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements. By so doing, said the writer, Israel is not only making a mockery of all agreements with the Arabs but it is also showing its resolve never to pull out its forces from the lands that have been under occupation since 1967. Nothing, said the writer, can be expected from the United Nations or the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process and therefore it is up to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which concluded the Oslo deal, to find a way to force Israel to honour its commitments.

SHARIF ZEID's visits Tuesday to the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament and his talks with their speakers reflect the government's determination to work hand in hand with the legislative authority in order to ensure a smooth march of democracy and remove all obstacles in the path of future cooperation, said Al Ra'i in an editorial Wednesday. The paper said the government, like all others before it, can never succeed in implementing reform programmes or deal with chronic and pressing issues at hand without close cooperation with Parliament. It is to be noted that the presence of a large number of deputies in the present government, representing different blocs and political orientations, is something in favour of the government and gives it an advantage needed for the endorsement of draft laws, added the daily. It said that the success of the present government in handling such issues like unemployment or poverty depends to a large extent on the close cooperation it will get from Parliament.

View from Academia

Our society vis-a-vis our interculturalists

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

LAST WEEK, I wrote in this column about the need for cultural orientation to our students who plan lengthy stays abroad, prior to their departure, with the aim of making their "intercultural" experience both more enjoyable and worthwhile. As large numbers of our students head west and east annually, the task and the effort of preparing them well for what is to come are certainly worth it.

But we have another obligation to these students, one which is equally significant — namely, to help them readjust upon their return. By "readjustment," I mean two things at once: a conscious attempt to help the returnees adapt smoothly within their own culture, from which they unavoidably have been somewhat estranged, and a sincere desire on our part to make effective use of the valuable perspective they bring back with them in our everlasting pursuit of social amelioration and development.

Some may find it strange to talk about readjustment (in the two senses of the word) for people who have been away from their mother culture for a relatively short period of time, 4-6 years for the majority. But it is not.

First of all, the gap between our present-day Arab culture and the contemporary cultures in which many of our students reside for a while is quite big indeed. Most of the cultures our students get exposed to are, despite the many striking similarities and affinities, diametrically opposed to ours. The ideals they cherish, the models of behaviour and practices they encourage, the moral values and ethics they promote are remarkably different from ours. And so are the norms, habits, customs, regulations, rules, laws and other means and ways of living.

Secondly, the 4-6 years are long enough and important enough (despite their seeming statistical insignificance) to make our students' encounter (brief but intense and intimate) with foreign cultures quite consequential. They are long enough to make casual lovers develop a "burning" taste for Chinese food and insist on it when they dine out on special occasions (for example), even though many of them do not relish it in the least when they first have it. They are long enough to make soccer fans love American football and baseball (two games they at first take to be inscrutable and silly), to make people use "I" and "my" (even though they have previously been brought up to use "we" and "ours"), to make them speak of "private space" in mother cultures where there is no notion of it, to make them speak of "career" in societies where jobs are taken less seriously than casual volleyball, to make them speak of "equal opportunity" and "fairness" in countries where "wasita" and personal connections have the ultimate say, etc.

Thirdly, whether we like it or not, we the Arab World of today live at a moment in history in which most of the countries our students seek for education purposes are noticeably more powerful than ours: they are the "first" world, we are the "third"; they are the "advanced," we are the "underdeveloped" or the "developing" (when they speak encouragingly to us or when we speak encouragingly

of ourselves); they are the rich, lucky "north," we are the unfortunate "poor" south (even though we possess oceans of oil and mountains of gold). Admittedly, the terminology may not be particularly flattering or palatable. The characterisation, however, is to an extent correct — sadly. Measured according to Ibn Khaldun's cyclical scheme of history, we lie closer to the bottom than the centre (and "fast falling," some would add). Forget the good old, glorious days of the forefathers, which are more remote and distant than the north pole. The point here is that, because of the situation just described, the influence of foreign cultures on our students is inevitably quite powerful. Keep in mind the fact that most of them go and come back, believing in their heart of hearts (much to their dismay) that their contemporary societies are in many aspects "inferior" to other societies.

Talk to people who have recently come from abroad, or to those who have not yet recovered from the home "culture shock" or may never recover, even though they have been back for quite some time now. You will be amazed at how "disappointed" they are, how "frustrated," how "shocked." There is a "home" culture shock.

A former student of mine, who has spent his entire life in this part of the world and is back from a one-year training course in one of the more "advanced" countries on today's earth, said to me the other day, "I was more shocked culturally when I came back than when I arrived abroad. Everything is wrong here, the way people speak, the way they walk in the street, the way they drive, the way they conduct business, the way they think about their jobs, the way they buy, the way they sell, the way they have weddings, the way they go on picnics, the way they socialise..." A friend of mine tells me he still flirts with the idea of writing a book he has hoped to write for years entitled "Three Months in Hell" describing the ugly encounter with bureaucracy and bureaucrats at the institution he now works at. Three months of filling out applications, refilling applications which were lost or misplaced, arguing with mindless employees about mindless regulations and laws, obtaining stupid signatures on trivial documents, carrying documents from one desk to the other or from one office to an office next door because the messenger was on leave or because the employee was too lazy and careless to carry them himself, laughing at stupid jokes he did not think particularly funny, finding connections to pressure connections to pull a few strings for him here and there, and so on.

There is some exaggeration here. Surely the situation is not that bad, nor is it that different from the countries our returnees have come back from. One of the worst experiences with bureaucracy I have ever had was with a motor vehicle department in a very advanced country; one of the most vexing, most painful flight delays I have ever had was also at an airport in a most civilised and developed European country. Yes, many of our people returning from abroad tend to romanticise the countries they have been to and tend to exaggerate the "badness" of what they

experience at home. Those coming from America tend to look at things through Americanised eyes, those from Germany through Germanised eyes, and those from Romania through Romanised eyes. Admittedly, therefore, their eyesight needs to be somewhat readjusted. Generally, these people find themselves, upon their return, caught up (quite nastily and uncomfortably) between two cultures.

At the same time, however, they have a valid point they wish to make — behind the exaggeration and amidst the romanticising and distortion. Their stay abroad and the experience they have had enable them to see what many of us do not see, do not want to see, or see but have taken for granted and have given up on. The fresh perspective our returnees bring with them is valuable and ought to be listened to, thought about, debated in public and encouraged. No one can convince me that the way they drive in Los Angeles or New York is half as bad as the way we drive in Cairo, Damascus or Amman. This is a fact. No one can convince me that Wasita is half as bad in the U.S. and even Italy or Greece as it is in Arab societies. This is another fact.

What do we do? Under the circumstances, I believe that our returnees have to meet society half-way, and our society has to meet our returnees half-way. It is a mistake of our people who come from abroad to want or expect change to happen overnight or to be extreme in their approach. And it is a mistake for our society, represented by our various formal institutions, to neglect, discount, disregard, suppress or oppress constructive criticism. There has to be a middle-ground. On the one hand, we do not want to become a USA, a Britain, or a Japan (or a strange mix of all). On the other hand, we do not accept for the present-day Arab World to be the largely flavourless, spineless, characterless, and impotent world it seems to be. We want our returnees, each in his/her own way, to help our society find itself, and we want our society to help the returnees to help it.

This is largely the job of our institutions. They are entrusted with the holy mission of overseeing the development of our society; they are the captains of the ship and the masters of our fate. It is their duty (and this is the point I wish to insist upon here) to take our returnees by the hand, listen to them honestly, scrutinise what they say, giving it a chance and a try if it sounds reasonable. And we want the institutions to defend their point when they disagree, to argue, to justify, to persuade and convince. Unfortunately, many of our institutions do not do this at present — or do not do enough. Generally, they lend not a sympathetic but a deaf ear to those who try to suggest new ways and approaches. This is a mistake. Change is uncomfortable, but it is a must.

We need to help those of us who come from abroad to readjust, connect and contribute, not to ignore their perspective or undermine it. Their intercultural experience is an asset.

Israeli land seizures threaten peace deal

Jewish settlement is undermining Palestinian self-rule, writes Sarah Helm from Jerusalem

BULLDOZERS WERE at work again recently near the West Bank settlement of Efrat, preparing the ground for new Jewish homes on land that nearby Palestinians claim is theirs.

A high profile protest obliged the Israeli government to halt the bulldozers from ploughing up a nearby hill. But the work has been moved to another piece of land, which is equally contested by local Palestinians.

Recent protests over Israeli settlement and land seizures have exposed the vast disparity between the perception in the world at large that peace has been made with the Palestinians and the reality of continued conflict on the ground.

The row has also revealed more powerfully than ever the weakness of the Oslo deal, signed by Yasser Arafat chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Since the Oslo signing land seizures have continued and Israel has now declared 70 per cent of the West Bank as "state land" while the number of settlers rose last year by 10 per cent. More than 140,000 Jews now live among the 1.3 million Palestinians of the West Bank.

Settlement, and the land seizure which precedes it, poses by far the biggest threat to peace. Arab land in the way of Israeli plans is bulldozed. Palestinian demonstrators are herded back by Israeli soldiers. Arab villages are throttled by zoning laws. And Palestinian documents — Ottoman, British, Jordanian and even Israeli — showing ownership of land, are deemed null and void by Jewish military orders.

The process now going on in the West Bank is perpetuating Jewish-Arab hatred. The Israeli government talks increasingly of the need for "separation" between Jews and Arabs. But leading Israeli human rights lawyers say a system of apartheid is being constructed. "As far as the different treatment given to the two different populations is concerned it is apartheid," says David Kretzner, professor of law at Hebrew University. "The two populations live in the same areas, but have different rights and are treated totally differently by the authorities."

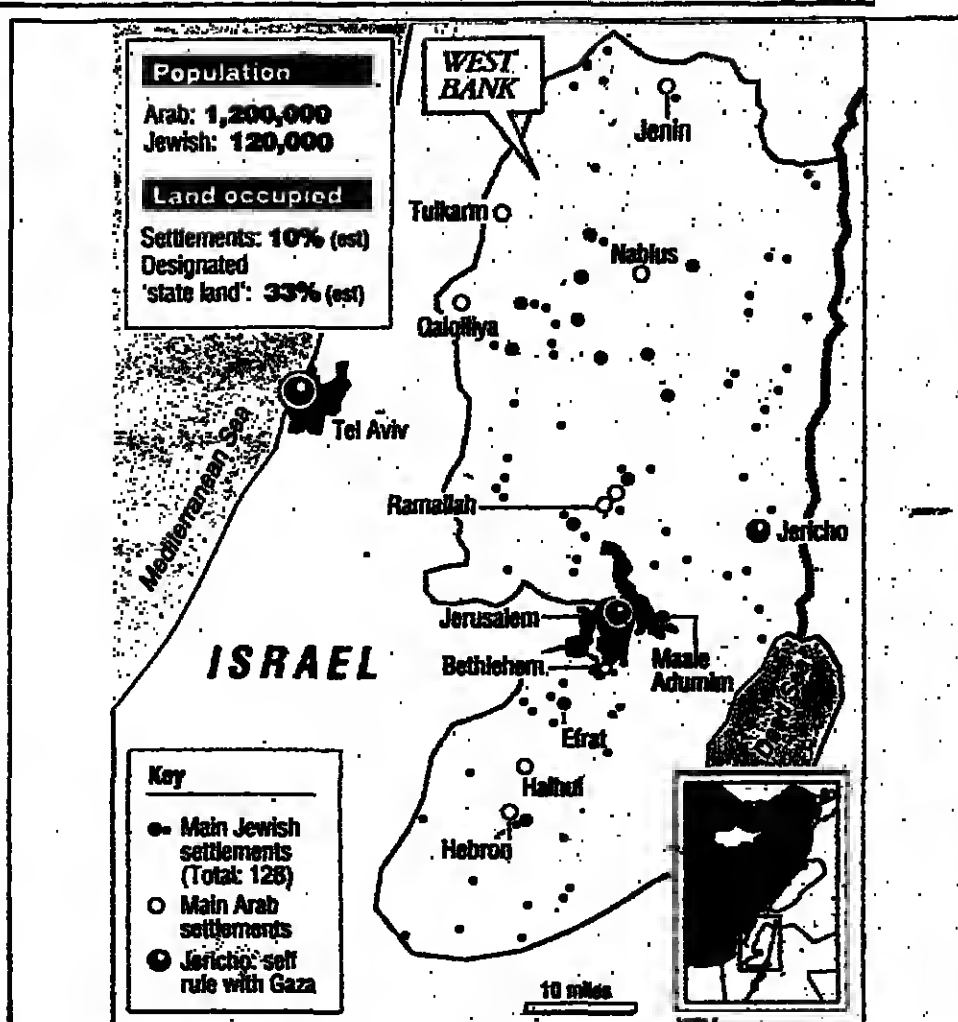
The Rabin administration has not reversed

Israel's underlying ideological and political claims to the West Bank, but has simply rationalised settlement strategy. Mr. Rabin is happy to lose troubled Gaza, which Israel seized from Egypt. The prime minister has also made clear that he has no desire to rule over a "hostile" Arab population in the West Bank, which was seized from Jordan. The government has therefore opposed settlement in the centre of areas of high Arab population, and proposed a degree of Palestinian self-rule.

However, this government remains determined to claim for Israel large chunks of West Bank territory and it is using the same twin-pronged approach as previous Israeli governments to achieve it, by promoting settlement to establish a Jewish majority on targeted lands, which can then be prepared for annexation. At the same time Arab growth throughout the occupied territories is squeezed by zoning laws.

The procedures used were put in place soon after Israel seized the lands in 1967. During the first four years of occupation 200 military orders were passed extending Israel's military jurisdiction over the lands, and empowering Israel to acquire property and control all resources, giving most Palestinians the status of alien residents with no rights. Land use planning was placed in the hands of military officers. Israel was swift to claim lands used by the Jordanian government as "Israeli state lands."

But it also unilaterally confiscated other areas for military and public use. To do this Israel took advantage of the confused state of land registration in the West Bank and the informal traditions of land ownership used by Palestinian residents, and made it impossible for most of them to argue before Israeli military courts, where the burden of proof was on them. Some land now owned Arab villages should act as a "caretaker" over the lands and not alter their status. In particular Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states:



lands were easily seized by Israel. Privately owned land has also been taken without difficulty where proof of formal registration does not meet military standards. When Israel captured the West Bank, Jordan was in the process of registering the private land but had completed only one-third.

Unregistered owners have tax receipts and other title deeds, but these are not accepted by Israel. Having taken the land, Israel builds on it for the sole use of Jews, applying Israeli law. Neighbouring Arabs are ruled by military order, and heavily restricted from building.

According to international law the process is illegal. As an "occupier" Israel should act as a "caretaker" over the lands and not alter their status. In particular Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states:

"The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies."

As settlement continues, the Arab areas of the West Bank are being carved up to produce a series of separate cantons which cannot conceivably constitute a viable state. East Jerusalem, unilaterally annexed by Israel in 1967, is also being rapidly developed to prevent the Palestinians ever claiming this area of the city as their capital. Israeli planners intend to increase the number of Jews living in Jerusalem by 70,000 over the next two years, creating an 80 per cent Jewish majority, in the biggest building drive since the creation of the state of Israel.

Palestinians have said repeatedly that this continued assault on the West Bank and East Jerusalem is contrary to the spirit of the Oslo agreement.

"The Israelis have been pursuing the same strategies since Zionism began in the 19th century," says Dr. Halid Abdul Shafi, former chief Palestinian negotiator and a critic of Oslo.

But, as despairing Palestinian lawyers point out, by signing the Oslo deal Mr. Arafat effectively allowed Israel new grounds to justify its settlement, and to buy time for more building. Under the agreement Israel first recognised the PLO then signed a deal with the Palestinians under which peace would be achieved in two phases. There would be a trial phase of "interim autonomy," starting in Gaza and Jericho and extending to other areas of the West Bank, before negotiations on the final status of the occupied lands. The final status talks should start not later than May 1996.

Vaguely worded paragraphs in the agreement talk of preserving the integrity of the lands in the meantime. But during the interim phase, the PLO agreed there could be no discussion of sovereignty, Jerusalem, or refugees. This meant the PLO effectively abandoned its right to challenge Israel's military and legal apparatus in the occupied territories.

"By agreeing not to challenge the occupation law during the interim phase, the PLO has allowed Israel to make more facts on the ground and consolidate its position, dictating the shape of the final status," says Raja Shehadeh, the leading Palestinian authority on occupation law.

To defend its continued settlement activity the government today continues to deploy historical, biblical and legal arguments. These add up to one thing: Israel believes its claim to sovereignty in the West Bank overrides any Palestinian sovereignty claim as well as any claims by local Palestinians.

"I am not aware of any change in Israel's claim to sovereignty over the land since the Oslo accord," Yoel Zinger, senior legal adviser in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said this week.

"There is a biblical right and a historical right. Jews came back to Palestine not to New York or Moscow — because they were coming back to their homeland. The same claim they had to Tel Aviv was equally relevant to Hebron or Nablus," he said, referring to two West Bank towns. These rights were reinforced by subsequent international rulings, he said. Furthermore, said Mr. Zinger, Israel was not an "occupier" under the terms of the Geneva convention, because there was no previous legitimate sovereign claim. Such arguments are rejected out of hand by human rights lawyers on both sides who point out that legal strategy is used to underpin political strategy.

"Israel is quite clearly an occupier under international law," says David Kretzner. "Sovereignty lies in the hands of the people who were living there when it was occupied. The occupier is obliged to act as a trustee of the land and has no right to alter its status by colonising and dispossession."

The Independent

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Weekender

1,000-mile walk starts with the first step

By Mohammad Masharifa

Not many Jordanian intellectuals are inclined towards accepting the idea of "normalisation with or openness to" the Israeli culture or Israel's society. They are not willing to enter into the subject searching for the good or the bad that separates the two sides.

In the view of Palestinian poet Ghassan Zaqtan, the concept of normalisation is a complete mystery shrouded with ideas like cultural influences, confrontation and cultural "onslaughts" or the like.

The mystery shrouding the concept of normalisation in its cultural or political sense and Arab intellectuals' keenness on shunning Israeli culture are perhaps justified by some people. But one has to admit that this tendency ought to be changed by first ruling out "the hostility elements" not merely for the sake of studying the situation, but indeed to meet the requirements of the coming changes of the modern era.

It is unreasonable for the Arabs to remain revolving in a vicious circle for another 100 years in order to discover that democracy, and technology or respect for human rights, or separating religion from government constitute the real key to development and real civilisation.

For its part Israel has tried to exploit all techniques and tools against Palestinians, exercising the worst possible injustice ever witnessed in modern history and failed to achieve its objectives. For their part, the Islamists call for ignoring the present trend towards normalisation with Israel and prefer leaving the matter for the coming generations who, they believe, can end injustice. But they indeed tend to forget that neither Israel nor the world at large will remain

passive and frozen until the time when the Arabs and Muslims have completed their preparations for the final battle.

In my contacts with Palestinian academics I sensed silent voices advocating new methods for a solution to the present conflict which, in the views of some people, can last for generations to come. These academic elite openly call for openness to the forces of peace that are genuinely inherent within the Israeli society and for a long struggle towards the attainment of the aspired coexistence in this part of the world.

But unfortunately the deep wounds left behind in the Palestinian society, due to years of occupation, have caused so much damage that now stands as a barrier drowning the voices of the elite academics who advocate peaceful coexistence and healing of wounds.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, head of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan asks: "What have the opponents of normalisation done in the face of the cultural, political and social changes in Israel with a view to favourably influencing the Israeli society towards peaceful coexistence with the Arabs?"

Hamarneh believes that the progressively-minded Palestinians and Israelis who oppose Jewish settlement policies and occupation have offered a far better service to the Palestinian cause than all the Arab countries' weapons and media and statements through their heroic and daring stand in the face of Jewish settlement programmes at Al Khader village near Bethlehem.

Now that the Jordan-Israel peace treaty has been

signed the need arises for creating new tools for a new struggle, utilising the present realities to halt the Jewish settlement programme and for formulating new tendencies and creating new forces inside Israel to help put pressure on the Israeli government to go ahead with the implementation of the peace process, Hamarneh adds.

His views are echoed by Dr. Ibrahim Othman, professor of sociology at the University of Jordan who believes that openness towards the Israeli society was bound to open the Arab people's eyes to their own civic rights and to the need to see institutions playing the crucial role in social development and in enhancing political pluralism. Dr. Othman believes that these signs are bound to emerge in our society sooner or later, motivating the desired change.

It is of paramount importance for us to dissect and scrutinise the various elements and components of the Israeli society so that we can better understand its nature. Otherwise, we are bound to remain satisfied with mere mysterious talk about the society of an "enemy" which we are religiously prohibited to approach.

We have to realise that Israel is made up of diverse elements, uncontrolled by absolute ideologies or by any form of unity. The Israeli society is full of diverse interests on the part of individuals who harbour different ambitions and who independently and freely express their cultural and political views.

But inside Israel one feels that the society there—similar to those of the Arab World—aspire to and has a deep desire for stability, security and sustainable development. Like the Arabs, the Israelis are influenced by positive and adverse regional and international environments.

It is not at all naive to admit that Jordanians, Palestinians and the Arabs at large have a real interest in opening to the Israeli society and all its elements and components, notwithstanding groups of that society who are opposed to peace and coexistence.

With very limited exceptions, the majority of the Israeli society believes that the Arabs are murderers, dishonest and have no respect for agreements, and that should they be offered one area of land, the next day they would demand to have control over Herzliya, or Acre, according to the views of an Israeli cab driver.

Likewise, the Arabs harbour similar notions about the Israelis and the misconceptions cannot be changed overnight. What is of paramount importance now is to start the 1000-mile trip by taking the first sound and firm step forward.

The alternative is a cycle of madness on the part of both parties, ending with the obliteration of the nucleus of the Arab civic society and the individuals' basic rights. This will be the heavy price which could be paid in case the opponents of peace had their way of pursuing the long and futile struggle to destroy the "Jews" who have occupied Arab land.

I am fully aware that sensible Jordanian and Palestinian people who support my views are a minority compared to the majority of those who bear negative concepts and who refuse to budge from their own position.

I also realise that this small minority of sensible people require courage and initiative and probably great sacrifice to leave their mark on history.

Irrationality still seems to be prevailing and permeating the Jordanian society, closing all outlets to the outside world.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Change on tail of change: what cabinets leave in their trail

With the changing of the guard at the Prime Ministry, it has been customary that the outgoing premier be present at the swearing in ceremony of his successor's team or at any official function once the reigns of power have been exchanged. But for former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, an act of high civility was noted. Not only was Dr. Majali present at the oath-taking ceremony of the new prime minister and his colleagues before His Majesty King Hussein, it was his name that was mentioned first on the broadcast news of who attended. Even the day after the new cabinet took office, Dr. Majali was again present to see off Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and his delegation, whom he had received only a few days earlier upon their arrival on an official visit. Dr. Majali who plans to take a holiday in London, capped an historic tenure with a regal exit.

FRIENDS AT THE TOP: But, to assure citizens that not all is pomp and circumstance, Dr. Majali introduced Sharif Zeid to guests at a formal dinner for Mr. Papandreu as "this is the man who kicked me out of my job." To that, the prime minister retorted, in jest of course, "you kicked me out of my job before, and now I'm getting my revenge." Whoever said our government was humourless?

STORM IN CABINET ROOM: It required a sense of humour from Sharif Zeid again on the first day the cabinet took office, when a crowd of about 70 over-eager well-wishers stormed into a Cabinet meeting to congratulate the prime minister. Stunned, but quick to the draw, the premier gently held back the boisterous bunch by promising to meet them outside the chamber in short order. And that, he did with more ease than one of his ministers could muster only minutes later. The minister was holding an official meeting with an Arab delegation at the Prime Ministry when a certain member of Parliament barged in, demanding that members of the cabinet be available "for receiving congratulations" from him and other MPs right away. Upset by the discourteous attitude of his fellow deputy the minister got up and gave him a dressing down. It is all part of the change, of course, including in friendships and attitudes.

COMRADE IN HIGH PLACES: The big surprise to most political pundits in town was not the appointment of a totally new face to government, namely that of prominent businessman Samih Darwazah (Energy), but that of Abdul Ilah Al Khatib who took the Tourism Ministry. Known to some as the "rising young politician," Khatib took a post in the cabinet as his father-in-law, Fawwaz Abu Ghannam, stepped down as minister of youth. Khatib's wife Iman, no stranger to the diplomatic rigours of having family in high places, knew even before she married, that this was a fellow who would go places. Unfortunately the Jordan Times did not do its home work properly by looking for Khatib's CV well before his impending appointment to the cabinet. So the paper could assemble no more than a few lines on his biography just as he was being sworn in, especially since his home phone sounded like it was off the hook for most of that day. Hence we owe it to our friend the new minister to say exactly what he had been doing in life just before he was chosen for the new post. Born in Salt in 1953, Khatib obtained a bachelors degree in political science in Athens, Greece. He earned a masters in mass communications from American University in Washington, D.C. and another masters in international economics and development from Johns Hopkins University, also in Washington. Khatib served with the Foreign Ministry for several years and was posted at Jordan's embassy in Washington, D.C. in the early 1980s. He was secretary of the steering committee of the Jordanian



delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks until he resigned from government service in May 1993 to enter the private sector. He was assistant director-general for investments of the Middle East Insurance Company, then moved to the Investment Guarantee Company where he was its director general until his appointment to the cabinet this week.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER: The ministers of foreign affairs, tourism and planning appeared to be busy forming a coalition at the top of the stairs outside Basman Palace after being sworn in to office last Sunday. Deep in conversation, the (relatively) young, Western-educated and hardworking Abdul Karim Kabariti, Rima Khalaf and Abdul Ilah Al Khatib must have missed the Petra photographer say "watch the birdie" when he shot the group photo of the new cabinet with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. But the hierarchy of seating the Council of Ministers at its sessions with the premier will force the energetic trio apart, if only for those more composed settings.



Abdul Ilah Al Khatib

SPOUSES BEHIND THE CURTAIN: Having another woman in the cabinet may very likely result in additional alliances between more reform-minded ministers, and that Salwa Damen-Masri was given the social development portfolio is indicative of a resolve to improve the lot of women and the poor in the country. Meanwhile, the social development minister's husband, Munther Al Masri, might do well to consult Hani Huneidi on what life is like as "joz il wazirah." In the earlier months of then Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf's tenure, Huneidi, her husband, had difficulty responding to "Mr. Khalaf." He admits, however, that he quickly learned to take such incidences in good stride. In the case of Masri, who is secretary general of the Ministry of Education, his newly-appointed ministerial spouse goes by the hyphenated style of using both her family and married names. Confusion here, then, should be minimum.

BAN ON TOLL-FREE CALLS: It is truly a Jordanian phenomenon. When the word is out that a new government is in the making, cabinet hopefuls hold vigil by their telephones in anticipation of "the" call which might propel them to a seat on the ever-expanding executive branch. Pity the teenager whose parent sits home not a metre from the nearest phone with orders punishable by the severest grounding if that phone is engaged. While our hopefuls waited last week, someone spent a good portion of his/her free toll units on the previous Wednesday and called the offices of nearly 30 members of the Lower House of Parliament with a message that the deputy in question should report to the Prime Ministry at 6:30 that evening. On the designated evening 16 parliamentarians dutifully reported to the Fourth Circle office of the premier, only to discover no such summoning originated from that office, and worse, all Prime Ministry employees had called it a day. Parliament was busy trying to track down the prankster.

NO FAVOURS FROM DEPARTING MINISTERS: Others wait also. One outgoing minister complained—not without a smile—that as he arrived at his ministry on the morning Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali offered his resignation to His Majesty the King, he was taken aback by a sight he had never before seen on his way to his

office. Ministry employees were lined up, gathered, crowded or hovering everywhere from the parking area, through the main entrance of the building and even along the halls of the minister's floor. It became immediately apparent that this amassing of staff was no show of solidarity or salute to their boss. It was an avalanche of last-ditch efforts, to request "wasta" for making new government appointments either for themselves, relatives or friends while the man was still in power. Unfortunately for them, this minister told those would-be favour seekers that inequity was not his style. Dr. Majali did in fact ask his outgoing ministers not to give out any job while the cabinet was a lame duck, and they happily complied.

FROM STILL OFFICE TO AIR WAVES: As if by design and not coincidence, Mohammad Said Barmant, former director of the press office at the Prime Ministry, started a new job last week as Director of television news at JTV, succeeding Abdul Halim Arabiyat who became deputy to JTV Director Nasser Judeh. Did Barmant know that the whole cabinet was leaving office, or he just chose to opt out of the Prime Ministry, where he had served for many years, regardless of who was left behind? We do not know. But we do know that Barmant graduated from the University of Jordan with a B.A. in political science in 1976. He has been a public servant for 17 years, mostly at the Prime Ministry, where he was press secretary and then press office director for the last three years. Barmant says of his new post that "it is not a one-person effort, it requires the help of colleagues." His goal is to "make clear the stand of Jordan in all aspects, politically, socially, economically, in order to portray a good image of the Kingdom through JTV, especially in this era." Barmant says he is first feeling his way through the situation at the station, getting to know his colleagues and then will form some targets with the JTV team to bring viewers "balanced" news reporting. Barmant (40) and his wife Basma, an architectural engineer, have two children aged 11 and four.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Thoughts for this week

"Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter — Jack Benny (1894-1974).

Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fail — Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C.-479 B.C.).

We are what we pretend to be so we must be careful what we pretend to be — Kurt Vonnegut, American author 1922 —).

Health is the thing that makes you feel that now is the best time of the year — Franklin P. Adams, American journalist (1881-1960).

We live by encouragement and die without it — slowly, sadly and angrily — Celeste Holm, American actress.

Priests are no more necessary to religion than politicians to patriotism — John Hayne Holmes, American author and reformer (1879-1964).

Open-mindedness is not the same as empty-mindedness. To hang out a sign saying, "come right in; there is no one at home" is not the equivalent of hospitality — John Dewey, American philosopher and educator (1859-1952).

A matter of time

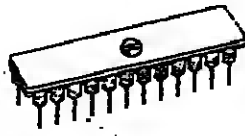
By Jean-Claude Elias

We are living in the age of information. That's at least what we are told. The amount of data a mere mortal can access these days, quickly, simply and inexpensively is absolutely flabbergasting. Entire encyclopaedias fit on small, light, reliable laser CD-ROMs (Compact Disc - Read Only Memory). The average capacity of a home computer's hard disk is now 250 MB, or 250 million characters. The straight connection of a PC (personal computer) to the telephone network, through ridiculously simple cables, opens the door to virtually all the information in the world, via the famous Internet or other electronic mail, services, networks and data banks. Is this knowledge? Is this true culture, as those who mass market computer related products want us to believe?

I have no intention here to diving into a philosophical essay, but my perception of knowledge and/or culture, is based on two criteria: autonomy and assimilation. Autonomy means that a physical person, a stand-alone (computer jargon again) body, is able to supply, to restore the required information, by himself/herself, without having to consult additional equipment, books or data storage devices. Anybody can open a dictionary to look up a difficult or rarely used word, knowledge however is knowing it by heart. Assimilation means that the word is fully understood, its meaning completely absorbed, and that the person can use it at all contexts.

Knowledge and culture can't be achieved without an essential ingredient: time. Like the rhythm of seasons, it's a process impossible to speed. We all have days that last only 24 hours. Whether we are or are not connected to the Internet won't change a thing. An encyclopaedia takes the same time to read, whether on CD-ROM or in book format. True, the

chip talk



laser disc is faster and maybe more pleasant to consult than the traditional format, but the time we may save on fast search is insignificant compared to the time it takes to read, understand and assimilate the information.

The addition of high quality moving images and sound to computer accessed data, known as multimedia, and the possibility to interact with data via a PC, all are invaluable benefits that must be acknowledged. Computer techniques tremendously expand the horizons of our knowledge but do not grant us one second more than what we already have in order to explore them. Actually, a negative effect often takes place. Having all this data potentially at our command with so little time to dig it out, scrutinise it, can be more frustrating than rewarding.

Modern age information systems do not provide any particular means to improve one's knowledge or culture. Books have so far done an excellent job in this regard. Naturally, the availability of huge amounts of data at our fingertips is a great asset. It's a wealth we cannot anymore do without. It will also, most likely, hopefully, contribute to secure us better ways of life, but it won't necessarily make us more cultured. Not instantly at least. Unless future generations redefine and give new meaning to the notions of knowledge and culture.

Slick and witty, but do they work?

By Samer Ghaleb Bagsoon

In today's world of advertising, where the buzz word is accountability, advertisers should be asking themselves whether their money is well spent. And they should be seeking proof of that all the time. For today, there is a huge emphasis on generating immediate sales, tomorrow.

In the more developed economies, this has affected the role played by the traditional media such as television, the press and posters: their market share is falling. Increasingly, companies have been turning to direct mail and sales promotion. Such activities are far easier to measure.

Gauging the effectiveness of an advertising campaign remains a notoriously imprecise science. It takes more than simply adding up the number of packs sold. The impact of the advertisement must be assessed in total isolation from other factors such as product innovation. Still, a lot depends on what the advertising is trying to achieve. While some campaigns are designed to get people to buy a product, others are created to maintain rather than develop a brand's market position. Sales increases are then not necessarily a relevant measure. Smart marketing is

about orchestrating all elements in one direction.

Under challenging economic conditions however, there becomes a need to justify the value of advertising. Judging purely on creative merit misrepresents a business which is after all, a commercial tool and not a part of the arts. Even if innovation and creativity remain important.

Smart advertisers realise that the real value of creating advertising lies not in its cost but in its added value — the ability to generate greater effect for less money, to be talked about.

So what makes an effective ad? Better targeting and a closer understanding of the consumer is one element. Also, there are now more clever ways to hit the right people at the right time and in the right mood. A campaign that "works" is generally accepted to be one that encourages people to identify with, relate to and connect with the ad. To maintain this connection, it is therefore important for advertising to keep up with an audience's changing hopes and aspirations.

But this also means that what makes an effective ad is always in a state of flux. No sooner will an agency hit on the right approach for a particular audience than a rival will do something different and rewrite the rules.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Make your mind easy. *Hawwen aleik.*
- Be a man! Take heart! *Kon rajolan! Tashajja!*
- Save the mark! *La samahallah.*
- Let it pass. *De' al-amr yamur bessiam.*
- God keep you. *Hafizkal'lah.*
- You make me jump. *Imaka tod'hishoni.*
- Keep your hair on. *La tagh'dab.*
- By the grace of God. *Befadil'lah.*
- For goodness sake. *Bellahi aleik.*
- Don't fail me. *La takhzabul.*
- Stop cracking jokes. *Kafaka takkeetan.*
- Mark my words. *Tuzakkir na sqool.*
- Cut it short. *Ikhtashir/Awjez.*
- Please do accept my invitation. *Arjao an taqbal da'wail.*

TIME FOR FUN

★ A friend of mine went to see his neighbour. The host treated him with honey, but it was so tasteless and diluted that the guest could not help commenting:

"Clearly this honey is from the days when the bees hadn't yet learnt how to make honey!"

★★★★★

★ A young man took his wife to the doctor to have her tonsils removed.

"These tonsils should have been removed while your wife was a child," the doctor said after the operation.

"Indeed?" he answered. "Thank you very much for telling me. In that case just send the bill to my father-in-law."

★★★★★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is haemophilia? What famous people have suffered from it? What detective novel deals with it?

2. In what occupation are the following used? Play-fair, exposure meter, Bergen, grammalogue, cram-pit, gentle, cheese, bewits, burin, puck.

★★★★★

3. Name five (5) great disasters in the nineteenth century which were due to fire.

★★★★★

4. Write 3879 in Roman numerals. What is MMMDCCCXXIX in Arabic figures.

★★★★★

5. Complete:

- (a) You can't make a out of a
- (b) You can't put an on
- (c) You can 'take a to the, but you can't make it
- (d) You can't take an without
- (e) You can't get out of a

★★★★★

PERPLEXITIES

- (A) Rearrange and underline which of these towns is not in Europe.

SHANTE — WOOCSM — LINAM — GATH-
WONNIS — GAIWN

★★★★★

- (B) Insert the missing number.

7	16	9
5	21	16
9	?	4

★★★★★

A 3-day concert now down to 2 CDs

SAUGERTIES, N.Y. (AP) — Sick of Woodstock? Imagine how Larry Hamby must feel.

The shelves in his office at A And M Records are lined with tapes of every musical note played at Woodstock '94. He has listened to those tapes seven days a week — over and over — from the time the concert ended on the morning of Aug. 15, until early October.

Hamby was responsible for piecing together the commemorative compact disc of the summer concert. The two-disc set has just been released.

"I'm not sick of it," Hamby insisted in an interview. "Although, I'm ready to take a breather from it."

Distilling three days of music into a 27-song package inevitably means a lot was left out, including a number of big-name artists. But Hamby's roud of what he's done

and thinks he has captured the event's essence.

No artist is represented with more than one song. But it also contains enough out-of-left-field selections that the album takes on its own personality.

While Woodstock '94 was a mixture of the old and new, Hamby's CD is weighed toward younger, hard-rocking artists.

"I didn't want this record to be presented from the veteran rock point of view," he said. "I thought they should be set among the new bands instead of the other way around."

As a result, the Allman Brothers Band, Santana and the band are out. Collective Soul, Candlebox, Primus and Blind Melon are in.

At Woodstock, Hamby commanded a team of more than three dozen people making sure all the music was captured on tapes. Two remote record-

ing trucks were parked behind each of the two main stages, and Hamby was camped in an office between them.

Tape was transported throughout the weekend to the Bearsville Studio about 10 miles (16 kms) away, where high-quality copies were made.

Then Hamby, an executive who helps guide the careers of A And M Artists, returned to Los Angeles and began reviewing the tapes. He was too exhausted to count how many hours he spent listening.

Handling all of the egos involved was surprisingly easy, he said.

Clear ground rules involving the musicians were set up: The artists had ultimate veto power over which of their songs were selected, but Hamby had the final say over what songs appeared on the album.

For the most part, he

said artists agreed with his choice, even if some persuading was needed. For example, Crosby, Stills and Nash wanted to include their performance of Woodstock, appropriately enough. Hamby thought Deja Vu was a more impressive performance.

While some artists are represented by well-known songs, other choices were more obscure: Sheryl Crow's Run, Baby, Run, Traffics' Pearly Queen, Candlebox's Arrow and the Neville Brothers' cover of Come Together.

cover of Come Together. Hamby wouldn't say which performers were left off because their shows were superb. But he said most of those cases were weather-related. That may be a veiled reference to the band, caught in a driving rainstorm during their performance.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 12

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

Peg Bowen is highly instrumental in getting Felix King out of a school dilemma.

9:10 The Hat Squad

The brothers fight to protect their father when a vengeful explosives expert escapes from prison and seeks to even the score with him.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Drop Dead Fred

Starring: Rik Mayall & Marsha Mason

12:00 The Exile

Friday, Jan. 13

7:30 African Skies

8:00 Movies, Games And Videos

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

An attempt to apprehend an armed man who has stormed the parliament and killed many people in Canada.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blanche

True love finally comes to Blanche in the person of Clovis Lauze, a local railroad worker, who assists her later in her fight against corruption.

11:10 Never The Twain

Oliver rushes for a neighbouring house to put a fire which has just started.

Saturday, Jan. 14

7:30 Harry And The Hendersons

8:00 Innovation

The programme looks at the use and effect of anaesthetics in surgical operations.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Murder She Wrote

An old man is found dead after his wife starts an affair with another man.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Country

Starring: Jessica Lange & Sam Shepard

The film tells the story of the Ivys, a farm family deeply rooted to the soil around them. When the government bureaucrats decide to take it all away, there is only one decision the family can make... they're staying.

12:00 Major Dad

The major causes himself a lot of trouble after having a number of civilians dismissed from his base.

Sunday, Jan. 15

7:30 Galactica

8:15 The Album Show

9:00 The Nanny

A feisty, opinionated New Yorker upsets the cool serene household of a successful Broadway producer when she becomes nanny to his three children.

9:30 Heartbeat

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Turner And Hooch

Starring: Tom Hanks & Graig Nelson

The film is a hilarious comedy which tells the story of a fussy, neat police detective, Scott Turner, and his huge, drooling dog, Hooch. Assigned to a brutal murder case, Turner has only one witness to help him solve it, Hooch.

12:00 The Hidden Room

A woman, who works as a model, becomes schizophrenic and loses social ties as she gets caught in a psychological dilemma.

Monday, Jan. 16

7:30 Black Beauty

8:00 Boogies Diner

Chaos prevails as a popular star visits the store.

8:30 Street Hawk

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Louisiana

Virginia, who is a land-owner in Louisiana, gets into a lot of trouble as she comes to bad terms with her husband, Charles.

Tuesday, Jan. 17

7:30 Practical Guide To The Universe

8:00 The Detectives

The police leap in to stop an attempt to smuggle diamonds.

8:30 Quantum Leap

It is 1962 now. Sam appears in the person of a shelter-building engineer who is engaged in preparing against an imminent Cuban missile-attack.

9:10 Equinox

The programme looks at the latest research on memory which is getting closer towards understanding how we remember and recall what we have remembered.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wild Palms

Harry travels to Japan to strike a deal when he discovers there that he has become a member of an under-cover organisation.

11:10 Flair

Wednesday, Jan. 18

7:30 Home Improvement

8:00 Quantum Leap

It is in Arizona, 1957. Sam assumes the character of the last still-living cowboy who seems to be standing ready for his final duel.

8:30 Lorenzo's Oil

The programme tells the amazing, true story of a fatally ill young boy, Lorenzo Odone, and his parents' incredible battle to save him.

9:10 Law And Order

This episode's court case is about a man who is found dead in the middle of the road and whose wife becomes a suspect.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Matt and Kathleen team up to help a girl find her father she has not seen for twenty years.

12:00 Keeping Up Appearances

Change in social attitude essential for better education

By Rima Corbawli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Being the cornerstone in the foundations of development, education in Jordan has for the past few years acquired a substantial share of attention whether from the media, authorities or educators. However in anticipating major advances to come as a consequence of implementing educational reform, an insight into the complexities involved would be a helpful guideline for a realistic outlook.

"Education is indeed a very complex issue that is individual yet involves many factors," said Victor Billeh, president of the National Centre of Educational Research and Development. An attitude that denotes absolute readiness to learn must be encouraged among students. "Certainly efforts from both parents and educators are needed to guide students to the right approach," said Dr. Billeh. So establishing willingness in students to acquire information should be the focus of parents' and educators' concentration, especially if higher education is to be sought. It is well-known that the

greatest proportion of accelerated progress is guaranteed by the activities of individuals who have deservedly attained higher education, but unfortunately viewing the situation from institutions of higher education does not give a promising picture.

University professors sense a lack of drive in the majority of students. "On average, only 10-15 per cent of the students in a typical lecture hall at the university are self-motivated and show enthusiasm about the learning process. The rest give every indication of being forced into education by a variety of factors, not least among which being the pressures of a society that demands a degree certificate before individual worth or merits are recognised," said Riyad Ahmad Bitar, professor of physics at the University of Jordan.

The fact that 50 years ago higher education was not compulsory for citizens to obtain decent jobs and undergo career advancement could be the reason for this decreased percentage of self-initiated students in comparison with the old days, according to Dr. Bitar. "About 50 years ago, high



"On average, only 10-15 per cent of the students in a typical lecture hall at the university are self-motivated and show enthusiasm about the learning process."

selectivity of students was exercised by universities which only admitted the keenest students into their higher educational programmes, and these students' thirst for knowledge was their mainstay at university," Dr. Bitar said.

So university graduates were truly well-informed in their majors having ac-

quired their degree primarily through hard work and a desire to learn not being compelled by any underlying motives. "However, these days we face the problem of having to educate the willing and the compelled because both have a right to education. That is why employment by classical methods that can only serve the self-

driven minority of students is not sufficient," said Dr. Bitar. Modern teaching techniques that eventually stimulate the most dormant learning tendencies must be sought in educating the least motivated majority of students — who ought to be the target of educators' concern. These modern methods go beyond "te-

dious lecturing" while students write or copy notes to involve the utilisation of visual aids, modern computer facilities, introduction to real life situations by carrying out appropriate project work, organising discussion groups, executing programmes that aim at applying theoretical knowledge into practical en-

counters and numerous other interactive techniques that stimulate students into thinking and correlating information, according to Dr. Bitar.

"There is definitely a shortage of educators and consequently students who genuinely understand technology. Whereas educators and students in developed countries can feel numbers and apply scientific theories into their every-day existence, the lack of ability to articulate academic concepts and substantiate them by numerical analysis is prevalent amongst developing nations," said Dr. Bitar. So, although education in Jordan is quite advanced in comparison with developing countries, efforts must be resumed to surpass the standards in the developed world.

"Naturally allocation of funds for education is needed to up-date educational facilities and educate educators to become capable tutors who understand technology. Also a change in society's attitude towards education is necessary," Dr. Bitar said. Apparently the individualistic approach of society only serves to hinder public development, according to Dr. Bitar. The approach is portrayed

by, among many other things, the wrongful idea that easy acquisition of high marks to show for great capability is more rewarding and valuable than attaining a high standard of quality education where real potentials can stand out and acquire sufficient well-deserved acknowledgement.

"To our great disadvantage, a successful, skilled and well-educated person often suffers the vices of antagonistic hostilities coming from envious work-mates instead of enjoying recognition and encouragement. This attitude of meeting success with hostility springs out of the fact that citizens are more involved with their own individual progress, or rather expansion of their individual resources, than the overall public development. Certainly this uncommendable attitude is contagious and is most often passed on to the new generations," said Dr. Bitar.

Thus, in achieving high standards of education, parents, society and educators, as well as students' attitude all combine to influence the progress of this complicated yet vital aspect of human development.

A man, a boy and the sharing of silence

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

Although the dead cannot speak, they must be able to communicate among themselves in a peculiar sort of internationally standardised sign language. How else does one explain the fact that just this month in Sarajevo, that famous 1990s hotspot of ethnic thugery and international embarrassment, a seven-year-old boy lay down to die — and as he did so, called out in silence to a man he never knew, a middle-aged stranger from a foreign land who met his own end almost a quarter century ago?

The first protagonist in this parapsychological melodrama was shown in the Dec. 24 edition of this newspaper. The extensive spill of vital fluids from the downward side of his head, cracked open by a well-aimed sniper's bullet, makes it clear that the youngster's final breaths have either already ceased or will do so within a few minutes. So quickly was the hunter able to take down his quarry that the boy never had the chance to physically react — it is as if he had suddenly fallen flat from tripping over his shoelaces.

Since the elapsing of that moment, the fidgety glances and twitches so typical of children his age have fled from his face, leaving behind in their place a peculiarly adult expression of serenity which mocks the two United Nations "blue helmets" who scramble frantically around him, like two panicked kitchen maids arrived too late to put out a cooking fire.

The second protagonist is Wael Zuaiter, a 38-year-old cultural/arts dilettante from Nablus. After spending approximately five years in Rome leading a sort of happy-go-lucky bohemian lifestyle, he turned to political activism — and paid for it with his life on the evening of Oct. 16, 1972.

A photo taken by Roman policemen who stumbled upon the scene of Mr. Zuaiter's demise on that long ago night, shows how he lay on his side in a foetal position — as if he were sleeping in bed, and not sprawled on the pavement of the courtyard of an apartment building. A bag containing a loaf of bread lay dropped on the ground behind him, but he still clung stubbornly with his left hand to a magazine and a bundle of X-ray plates from the clinic of a local doctor.

Friends of Mr. Zuaiter's, alive today, remember him as eloquent in his speech. But in death, it is the Sarajevo boy who is the more powerful witness, with the fawn-like softness of his features which so wistfully damns his anonymous killer.

★ ★ ★ ★

A group of Mr. Zuaiter's Italian friends — several writers, artists and journalists among them — felt indebted enough to him to publish a 200-page book in his memory in 1979. But it is doubtful that many Middle East observers of today distinctly recall his name.

In the time which has elapsed since his death, the dimensions of the conflict which dominated the later years of his life and then took it away have radically changed.

Years were to pass before Anwar Sadat would stun the world with a visit to Israel, and the first stone-throwing of the intifada were a full decade and a half away. Even the Yom Kippur war, by now little more than a chapter in history books, had not been fought yet.

Instead of stepping up onto podiums together for peace, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and the premiers and ministers of Israel were busily engaged with each other in a round-the-clock, tit-for-tat scare war of bombings, terror raids and assassinations. The latest high-profile episode had taken place only two months earlier at the Munich Summer Olympics. Seven Palestinian guerrillas had gone to their graves in a bloody gunbattle with German and Israeli security forces, taking 13 Israeli hostages with them.

Mr. Zuaiter had come to Italy in 1962, after several years of wandering and working on-and-off in Iraq, Kuwait and Germany.

Then, with the outbreak of the 1967 war and news that his hometown of Nablus had fallen to advancing Israeli troops, he had felt it his duty to join the Palestinian resistance. He went to the Algerian embassy in Rome to enlist as a volunteer fighter, and was rejected because he was too old. He was also released from a Palestinian training camp for would-be commandos after he "proved incapable of handling a gun," according to Italian author Alberto Moravia.

Eventually, he channelled his resistance efforts into a less aggressive and more cerebral mode, as a political/cultural representative for Al Fatah in Italy. This proved to be much more suitable to the nature of a man whose friends remember as being, among other things, a veritable bookworm. Those who write in the 1979 book dedicated to him, entitled simply "For A Palestinian," recount how he would voraciously gobble up tomes on everything from opera to astronomy to the history of religious mystic movements, and more. A favourite pet project of his, which he never completed, was to translate the oldest known Arabic version of A Thousand And One Nights, in its entirety, into Italian.

In the end, the man who emerged after the 1967 war, a tireless organiser of seminars, Arab-Italian committees, publishing projects and a "Palestinian



A seven-year-old boy lies dead from sniper fire in Sarajevo

Cultural Centre" in Rome, was a marked contrast to what acquaintances had known before, a man once happy to spend "entire days... chattering with Arab students in a coffee bar," according to one journalist who knew him.

"Always the worst manager of his own affairs, he would spend what little money he had on books, records and tickets to concerts or the opera," the journalist, Pietro Petrucci, writes in For A Palestinian. "A few hundred lire was all he needed to buy a sandwich, and he was not ashamed of wearing clothes discarded by his friends."

Although the testimony of one's devoted friends cannot be taken as unbiased evidence, Mr. Petrucci and others who write in For A Palestinian unanimously assert that by 1972, five years of Mr. Zuaiter's sustained efforts as a Palestinian activist had paid substantial dividends. Italy's intellectual circles, once staunchly pro-Israeli for the most part, had begun to stir about and question former views once held with certainty.

Partial success gave birth to bolder ambitions: Mr. Zuaiter now dreamed of having a group of Europe's most famous writers and artists jointly sign a declaration of support for the Palestinian cause. There were also hopes that some of Italy's cinematographers might consider making films on the Palestinian people and their predicament.

Then, in the summer of 1972, things unexpectedly took a nasty turn. Ghassan Kanafani, an eminent Palestinian poet, was assassinated in Beirut that July. Kanafani had been cultural director for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The Munich debacle followed in August, and with the media fallout that came on its heels, Europe went chill towards the Palestinians and their cause.

Mr. Zuaiter would not condone the PLO's role in the Munich slaughter, and insisted to friends that he personally considered any such acts to be "sheer madness." Nevertheless, a large number of his Italian contacts in intellectual and political circles, whom he had worked so hard to win over during the previous years, faded away.

He was also intelligent enough to fathom what Kanafani's death might imply for him, and he was scared: "If I remain, they will kill me," he told a friend anxiously.

A few weeks later, as he opened the door of an elevator lift to go up to his apartment, two assailants stepped out from hiding in a broom cabinet behind him and pumped three .22 calibre bullets into his back. In a thoroughly useless attempt to flee, Zuaiter ran out into an adjacent courtyard in the building complex and collapsed. There, he was finished off with another nine bullets.

The Fatah representative in Rome ended his career as he began it — penniless. The bag with the single breadloaf which he carried that night was meant to be his supper, and his telephone had been cut off because he couldn't come up with the money for the bill.

Previously, PLO officials had urged him to let them loan him a pistol, in case he should ever need it for self-defence. He had refused.

★ ★ ★ ★

In the following few months of 1972 and throughout the next year, or so it appears, Israeli authorities remained determined to exact a painful price for Munich. Five more PLO affiliates in Europe would meet their deaths during that period, either brought down in the same manner as Mr. Zuaiter or blown apart by remote-controlled bombs. The first to follow was Mahmoud Hamshari, Fatah's representative in France, who had himself attended Mr. Zuaiter's funeral wake in Rome only seven weeks earlier. The next four followed in gradual succession — Hussein Bashir, Basil Kubaisi, Mohammad Boudia and Amed Bouchikki.

Moments would remain behind for some of Mr. Zuaiter's associates in Italy. Mr. Petrucci remembered how a short vacation spent together in a seaside villa turned into a journey of memory, of childhood summers spent on the seacoast of another land, 30 years before.

"I still have in my ears," Mr. Zuaiter once told another friend, "the rhythm of the water pumps irrigating, day and night, the orange-groves of Jaffa." Journalist Ennio Polito remembers how once, in the tense atmosphere of a raucous public hall meeting, Mr. Zuaiter stood up from the back of the audience to give those assembled his version of the events which had brought about the very first war in Palestine, in 1948.

"How do you know these things?" a sceptic asked him testily.

"I know them," he answered, "because I am a Palestinian."

★ ★ ★ ★

And now, 22 years later, there is this Sarajevo boy. He comes from another continent and is 53 years Mr. Zuaiter's junior. As he lies dying, his shrill voice pipes out in angry protest.

How could you claim that you knew simply because you were a Palestinian, as if that word should make you something special?, he asks Mr. Zuaiter indignantly. Look at what they've done to me, and what if you'd been a Turk, or a Chinaman, or an Eskimo for that matter? What would you have told them then?

Mr. Zuaiter hears the boy's call, and from across time, he answers back — to tell the boy that he is not alone, and should not be afraid, for others before him have faced what he is facing now.

It is a very private dialogue between the two of them. We may stay on to observe it if we like, but we are not invited to participate.

And suddenly, in this moment, the embarrassing realisation hits us — that we have mangled this world so much, we are now incapable of fixing it.

For A Palestinian: A Memorial To Wael Zuaiter

Edited by Janet Venn-Brown

Routledge and Kegan Paul PLC

14 Leicester Square, London, U.K.



Wael Zuaiter lies dead in Rome on Oct. 16, 1972

House endorses pension law

(Continued from page 1)

chance to participate in this government and those which preceded it and occupy no senior positions.

"The people of Ajloun have screamed for justice ... Jordan is not a farm for certain people," Dr. Qudah said as he voiced the loyalty of his constituency to King Hussein.

Dr. Qudah is a member of the 18-strong National Action Front, which is represented in the government by five deputies and is reportedly suffering from some dissent over the choice of its participants in the government.

Founder of the bloc Abdul Hadi Majali told the Jordan Times last week the bloc only agreed with Sharif Zeid on the number of portfolios it would receive but the choice of the representatives was made by the prime minister.

But apparently some members of the bloc are convinced that the choice was made by Council "urgently" to consider the issue.

France, which currently holds the six-month presidency of the European Union, has also called publicly on Israel to halt all building in the West Bank.

Mr. Juppe said after Wednesday's meeting with Mr. Peres: "We agreed that things have been a little tense in recent weeks," but said he hoped progress could now be made in the Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Although Saudi Arabia is expected to be a major backer of the bank, it sent only embassy officials to the meeting.

State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly acknowledged that Saudi Arabia had "articulated some reservations" about the project but said that there had been discussions with the kingdom on that issue.

Asked about the low-level presence at the meeting, Ms. Shelly replied, "We're not reading any particular significance into that."

Participants at the meeting said that the Saudi delegates had not opposed the formation of the bank.

Ms. Shelly described the meeting as one of a series "which will take place as we look into the broader issue of financing institutions and generally how to respond to the structural requirements for economic development in the Middle East."

leaders of the bloc and are hence breaking away from it in anger. Sources say that Dr. Qudah and Deputy Farah Al Rabadi (Ajloun) are among those who will leave or have left the bloc in protest.

No such division was reported in the other three blocs that are represented in the government in accordance with different formulas worked out between them and Sharif Zeid prior to the announcement of the government.

The only bloc that was kept out of the cabinet is the IAF, which, along with leftist deputies Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa), Khalil Haddadin (Amman, Third District), Mustafah Shmelkat (Balqa) and Toujan Faisal (Amman, Third District, Circassian seat) and Talal Oheidat (Irbid), is expected to withhold confidence from the government.

Dr. Qudah is among a few lawmakers who are unhappy over their exclusion from the government and could vote against it on these grounds.

Clashes erupt over settlement

(Continued from page 1)

ally, conceded that West Bank settlements in the occupied West Bank were "a problem" but said it was up to Israel and the PLO to resolve the issue themselves.

There have been fierce protests in recent weeks over land being appropriated on which settlements could later be built.

There have been warnings that the settlement issue could disrupt the whole peace process, and the PLO has called on the U.N. Security

Council "urgently" to consider the issue.

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Ground laid for Mideast bank

(Continued from page 1)

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It's not the definitive moment in that process whereby nations have to stand up and pronounce themselves on final financial commitments," she pointed out.

Questioned about Saudi Arabia's participation, Ms. Shelly said, "I understand that the Saudis are represented at this meeting through their embassy resident here in Washington."

"It's up to them to decide the form which their representation will take. We're not reading any particular significance into that."

board to oversee air traffic in the region.

At a news briefing, they said they also saw the board as a way to stabilise area aviation and encourage aviation development funding.

Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority acted on a study financed by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA).

The delegates said their plan would need ministerial support from their governments, but thought it would win approval because their ministers were already aware of the plan and its aims.

Under the plan, the board, initially made up of officials of the three countries, would establish programmes to manage airspace in the area that is expected to flourish as the Middle East peace accords move ahead in the coming years.

Other states would be encouraged to join later.

The increasingly congested air traffic in the area is now handled by a regional group under the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

A TDA official said the board would serve as a stabiliser to regional aviation and encourage foreign investment to help finance new aviation infrastructure through government bonds or by leasing some airport operations.

Captain Mahmoud Mohammad Abdul Wali Siam, of the Palestinian Authority, said the board would help win the investment needed to develop aviation.

The TDA official said the study envisioned the board to be patterned after a similar regional authority in Europe and could be followed up by an airspace planning authority to set up regional routing structures and airspace allocations.

Russians attack Grozny palace

(Continued from page 1)

Chechens were prepared to lay down their arms.

Aliv Musayev, 38, wearing the green head-band of a hardcore Chechen fighter, said defiantly: "There is no ceasefire. We have a couple of Russian units surrounded. As soon as they put down their weapons they can have a ceasefire."

Panicked civilians, traumatised by devastating Russian air raids last month, scattered in all directions when the warplanes roared over the city above the cloud cover.

The planes launched no attacks. But, despite Moscow's pledge not to carry out more bombing raids, Chechens feared the sorties were a prelude to new attacks once the paper ceasefire ended.

"My God, they're back again," said 40-year-old Zinat as he dashed for the shelter of a building in the south of the city.

river around the presidential palace.

"It was really quiet last night but they (the Russians) started again this morning," local Chechen commander Hussain Ishanov said in the bombshelter of the presidential building.

The conflict has damaged Mr. Yeltsin's democratic credentials and his standing with the west and provoked widespread domestic criticism.

But the Russian lower house, the State Duma, sided with an agenda submitted by liberals which focused on proposed draft laws curbing use of the army inside the Russian Federation.

It approved an agenda proposed by conservatives in which the curbs were relegated to the end of an overloaded programme. This left them with little prospect of being properly aired.

A year later, Sydney still feels fire shock

By Jason Szep
Reuters

SYDNEY — Green vegetation struggles to sprout through the ashen residue covering the rugged terrain of the Royal National Park whose lush grasslands, forests and knobby hills were engulfed in devastating firestorms a year ago.

The park on Sydney's southern outskirts is today a heart-wrenching reminder of the fires which ravaged Sydney in early January 1994.

Visitors and park rangers are met by hulks of craggy blackened trees and short stubby plants in areas which only a year ago were thriving with thick bush and rainforest.

More than 95 per cent of Australia's oldest national park was torched, leaving behind vast tracts of charcoal trees, rocks and burnt plains. Experts fear another such fire in the next decade could nearly destroy the 115-year-old retreat.

"When you look across the park now, at least superficially, it looks green again. It no longer looks completely black and grey," said Ken Ayers, district manager at the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

"The past 12-month period has been a very trying one for the park," Mr. Ayers told Reuters.

But the Royal National Park is not the only place still showing its wounds one year after the worst fire crisis to hit Australia since white settlement in 1788.

Sydney itself is still feeling the searing impact of last year's devastating fires. Dry, hot weather and

gusty winds whipped up some 800 fires across New South Wales last January, killing four people, destroying 206 homes and burning more than 800,000 hectares (1.98 million acres) of land.

As many as 20,000 firefighters fought to contain the blazes during the 15-days crisis.

Survivors of the fires gathered on the first anniversary on Sunday to remember those who died and thank rescuers.

The small brick church in the southern Sydney suburb of Jannali, one of the worst hit areas, overflowed with 400 people who applauded the arrival of uniformed firefighters and ambulance officers before offering them a prayer of thanks.

Although brief spells of hot, dry weather have sparked some fires in the state this year, few expect a repeat of last year's nightmarish outbreak of fire after fire.

Today, however, many in Sydney are still in shock. In the suburb of Como, a mere 20-km south of the city centre, residents are reminded almost daily of the harrowing fires which killed a young mother and levelled 15 homes and a church in the tight-knit community last January.

Marcia Dearsley, who has lived in Como for 27 years, said the constant hammering and huzz of construction as residents rebuild and repair homes are daily reminders of the fires which hit 89 houses.

At this time last year, Ms. Dearsley's neighbourhood looked like a war zone. Lawns, once grassy, were ash and dirt, while the



This photo, dated Jan. 8, 1994, shows a Sydney resident watch anxiously as a firestorm approached his property (AFP photo)

charred remains of houses, fire-gutted cars, twisted metal and burnt palm trees lined the streets.

"We never believed that anything like this could have happened because we're not anywhere near the bush," said Ms. Dearsley, whose backyard pool was a key water source for the teams of firefighters on her street. "It's touched everybody."

The biggest concern at the moment is how to prevent a repeat of last year's disaster.

New South Wales hush

fire services commissioner Phil Koperberg says the state is much better prepared than 12 months ago and will soon have a computer simulator to predict the behaviour of bushfires.

"People ask whether I feel any sense of occasion on the anniversary of the fires," he said in a recent open letter published in the Australian newspaper.

"Strangely, I don't, other than a sense of relief that now, a year later, we are in a much more benign situation weatherwise, and that the likelihood of a repeti-

tion of the January 1994 fires in the near future is highly unlikely."

Specially designed aircraft will be part of the state's future defence against the ravages of bushfires, which often begin in remote, inaccessible forests, Mr. Koperberg said.

But Mr. Ayers at the National Parks and Wildlife Service warned Australia could at some point face such fires again as long as arsonists remain at work during dry, hot summers.

"Our society finds it

almost impossible to stop arsonists from lighting fires. They give them to us when we don't want them," Mr. Ayers said.

National Parks and Wildlife Service research scientist David Keith said in a study in late December that one more large fire this century in the Royal National Park could lead to a disastrous loss to diversity in the park.

"Respite from fire for just 10 years should be enough to see the royal and its unique ecosystems back from the brink," he said.

The marketplace can't produce a good society alone

By William Pfaff

PARIS — There is gathering resistance to that economic orthodoxy which says the marketplace can and should set priorities in social policy, and which believes that maximising global trade is the way to produce the greatest prosperity for all.

The religion of markets has given us the school of management which declares return on investment the primary criterion of corporate value and considers work-force layoffs and transfers of corporate production to low-wage countries evidence of corporate health. It is a school increasingly contested in both the United States and Western Europe.

The high levels of unemployment experienced in Western Europe and the United States since the 1970s, levels held by this school of thought to be the regrettable but essential result of increased national industrial competitiveness, actually have meant the transformation of 10 to 20 per cent (or more) of the work force from active and remunerated participation in the national economy — as contributors of wealth, consumers and taxpayers — into state dependents, at best. At worst, they are simply excised from the national accounts.

Is this a proper deployment of the resources of a nation? The transfer of so many people from work, income, consumption and tax payment to government dependence or indigence, nonconsumption and noncontribution to the community is clearly a loss to nation and economy, whatever it does for corporate performance as measured by profit return or international market share.

Obviously, corporate competitiveness is a good thing, but a society measures itself by many criteria, and economic performance is only one of them. The orthodoxy of international labour division, with its faith in the "rising tide" of wealth creation through trade (allegedly lifting every nation's economic boat), too often ignores the real-world obstacles, constraints, manipulations and time lags that prevent the international marketplace from functioning in the impartially benevolent way the theory promises.

History gives evidence for this argument. The con-

ventional wisdom says free trade has given the leading countries their present prosperity while protectionism was responsible for the Great Depression and the international crisis of the 1930s. Actually, the economic "miracles" that took place in Japan in the 1950s and 1960s, and elsewhere in Asia in the 1970s and 1980s, all occurred under regimes of formal or informal protectionism — which continues.

The same is true of the great surge of the American economy in the 19th century. And imperial Britain dominated the world economy when it preached free trade but practiced imperial preference.

The great European depression between 1870 and 1890 coincided with an unprecedented lifting of tariff barriers, and GNP per capita in Western Europe ceased to fall only when tariff policies hardened in the 1890s.

Protectionism in the 1930s was the result of the world economic crisis, not its cause. Average international tariffs on manufactured goods were stable between 1913 and the crash in 1929.

As James Fallows has pointed out, the current orthodoxy, dominated by American and British economists committed to the theory of maximising trade, prefers to ignore the reasons for the postwar success of the Continental European economies and Japan. They gave (and give) primacy to production, not consumption.

They acted in the intellectual tradition of the 19th century German economist Friedrich List (and, as Mr. Fallows notes, of Alexander Hamilton as well). List said that "society's well-being and its overall wealth are determined not by what a society can buy but what it can make." Note Germany's and Japan's continuing determination today to remain manufacturing societies.

The belief that market forces must be allowed to determine social priorities

Balkan communist psychology hinders ceasefire

By Mark Heinrich
Reuters

SARAJEVO — U.N. officials trying to devise a lasting ceasefire in Bosnia say they face an uphill struggle reconciling foes reared in a Balkan communist culture of bureaucratic pettiness, prevarication and paranoia.

U.N. spokesmen say deep enmity arising from 33 months of vicious ethnic war have complicated talks to make a new truce between Bosnia's Muslims and Serbs stick.

U.N. officers involved in the talks regard their task as not just to overcome the reflexive hostility of combatants but a mindset moulded by decades of communism superimposed on an older Balkan heritage of intrigue and treachery.

"The problem is that they have the old psychology of the bureaucratic, centralist, paranoid communist system they inherited from yesterday and they have to get out of that," said a senior U.N. peacekeeper.

"Having tried to understand the psychology of these guys at war, we see they're having a harder time grasping the idea of peace," said another U.N. officer familiar with the talks.

"There is so much inertia, so much over-control of every little thing. They complain about the speed we insist on in implementing the ceasefire. They can't cope," he told Reuters.

Another U.N. officer said: "They think that if one element breaks down, the whole agreement is null and void. We've told them, 'come on, if you held to such a 100 per cent absolutist approach you'd never get anything moving in the Balkans.'"

In signing the ceasefire on Dec. 31, Bosnian Muslim and Serb leaders agreed to "immediately" implement key provisions such as vacating a U.N. demilitarised zone, reopening civilian supply routes across front lines and establishing zones of separation where peacekeepers would take up positions.

But none of that has happened, calling into question the durability of the four-month "cessation of hostilities."

Neither side seemed to have any intention of fulfilling its part of the bargain without seeking linkages sure to tie the truce process in procedural knots, U.N.



Serb separatist leader Radovan Karadzic gestures as he explains an ethnic map of Bosnia-Herzegovina at his headquarters. Serb militaries often stopped convoys from reaching their destinations (AFP photo)

sources say.

"They have disputed points of implementation right down to the number of inspectors at crossing points," one said.

Pathological manoeuvring, suspicion and obstructionism by warring parties have tormented peacemaking efforts in Bosnia.

International envoys who have sought in vain to staunch the bloodletting and engineer a peace treaty over the past three years have been constantly wrong-footed by the factions' boundless capacity for bad faith, diplomats say.

Scores of ceasefires and pledges of free movement for U.N. humanitarian aid operations were solemnly signed in front of gratified foreign mediators only to be broken within hours.

Communist-style red tape harassment of U.N. missions in Bosnia are legendary. Some convoys were denied passage if combatants found one item of cargo missing from a manifest, or allowed to proceed only after ransoms were paid.

Serb leaders ritually denied violations of human

rights while gunmen expelled Muslims and Croats from their homes.

Now, signed commitments to "immediately" implement the ceasefire have fallen by the wayside as if they never existed.

Instead, sessions of the "central joint commission" on the ceasefire have turned into theatre, U.N. sources say.

Meetings break down in propaganda tirades delivered by each side in the obfuscatory style of communist apparatchiks.

"We just watched them for an hour at one point as they accused each other of this, that and the other. It was almost group therapy," said one senior U.N. officer.

"These talks are like dental surgery. There is an enormous storehouse of Balkan bad faith on both sides," said another.

"All this has to do with their cultural lack of confidence and trust. We have to keep telling them to stop this propagandist language because, look, they have stopped fighting and need to develop a new relationship."

Jordan Times
Tel.: 667171

Treasury Mexico

Clinton Wednesday... to continue taking... financial woes... "It is in America's... Mexico succeeds... Mr. Clinton stepped in and... the freefall. Mr. Clinton conveyed

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Cable car to link Ma'in with Dead Sea

★ Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) Director General Mohammad Batayneh expects the JIC to have made a JD15 million profit last year, about the same amount posted in 1993. He said JIC's main investment for this year would be a cable car project between Hammamat, Ma'in and the Dead Sea. The project would cost about JD8 million in which the JIC would have a 10 to 20 per cent stake. Mr. Batayneh said the rest of the equity would be left to the private sector, noting that the interest shown by foreign companies in the project was very encouraging. Mr. Batayneh said the feasibility study for the project indicated there would be a good return on the investment, especially with relatively low and competitive prices. The JIC will set up a company for this purpose and will be announcing the details of the firm this month, Mr. Batayneh said, adding that the scheme will be under implementation towards the end of this year (Al-Dustour).

★ Petra was visited by 161,234 people last year. The highest number of monthly visitors was 23,029 during the month of April. The number of visitors was 18,154 and 18,047 during October and November respectively (Al-Rai).

★ Produce exports during December 1994 amounted to 17,320 tonnes, worth about JD 5.5 million. Lebanon bought the highest volume (26.7 per cent), followed by Saudi Arabia (23.9 per cent), and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain at 19.9 per cent and 19.1 per cent respectively.

★ The new price for a pack of Cartier, Dunhill International or Rothmans Royal imported by the Ministry of Supply is JD 1,500. The ministry also fixed the price of Lucky tuna at 265 fils a can (Al-Rai).

★ The Cities and Villages Development Bank last year extended 116 loans, amounting to JD 7.6 million compared to 172 loans in 1993, amounting to JD 7.5 million. The loans benefitted 80 municipal councils and 38 rural councils; 47 per cent of loans went for opening and asphalted roads, 24 per cent were to reschedule overdue loans and nine per cent for productive projects (Al-Rai).

★ Under an agreement signed at the Civil Aviation Authority, Royal Jordanian will be flying from Amman to Kansai airport in Osaka, Japan, via Delhi. Flights are expected before mid-1995 (Al-Rai).

★ The society of moneychangers is demanding a reduction in licensing fees and in annual fees, which amount to JD 15,000 and 14,000 respectively. Other demands which were presented to the Central Bank were: (1) Easing of administrative restrictions by providing monthly rather than daily statistical reports; (2) freeing the purchase of foreign currencies from banks without having to get a prior approval from the Central Bank; (3) allowing moneychangers to deal directly with the Central Bank in buying and selling foreign currencies; (4) facilitating export and import of foreign currencies and precious metals; (5) permitting a clearing process between outgoing foreign currencies against incoming foreign currencies without the need for incoming transfers against the outgoing foreign currencies and (6) permitting having intermediate (temporary) accounts to facilitate dealings and ensure a better control between the moneychangers and their clients outside the country (Sawt Al Shaah).

Reduction of car customs did not benefit ordinary people

By Saman Abu Sharar

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The reduction in customs duty on cars which went into effect on Nov. 13, 1994 has sown confusion and misconception of the move among people. More importantly, it did not lower the price of cars to meet average people's expectations and budgets as the government has intended it, car dealers say.

One day before the law was implemented, then-finance minister Sami Gamrah announced that the decision of the government was taken to enable a bigger number of Jordanians to obtain a means of transportation that would suit their budget.

Ordinary people who were expecting to buy a car that costs JD20,000 for JD11,000,

were disappointed since according to the new law it only came down to JD17,000; thus it stays beyond their budget.

On the other hand, affluent people who wanted to buy a car for JD250,000 and it came down to JD230,000 will buy the vehicle anyway since the reduction is a minor issue that practically does not hurt their original budget, says Moussa Kakish, assistant general manager of the Arab East Auto Company.

The custom duty reduction seems to have served the wealthy people more than ordinary people, he said.

The majority of car dealers contacted by the Jordan Times agreed on three main and essential points which confused people.

First, a general misunderstanding concerning the new law. Many people believed that the reduction involved the actual price of the car instead of the reduction in custom duty.

For example, the custom duty of a car with an engine capacity of 1500cc to 2000cc was according to the new law reduced by 40 per cent. The general understanding was that the 40 per cent came off the price of the car.

Zaki Ayoubi, manager of the United Automobiles Trading Company, explained that "in purchasing a car there are many things involved which would make the

reduction appear so little."

Freight charges of five per cent, price of the manufacturing company (which according to car dealers is set by the home company and does not bring them any additional profit as some people are claiming), price of the car, additional charges (registration, stamps, etc.) 15 per cent, and sales tax of seven per cent are the main fees that anyone would have to pay in purchasing a new car.

Therefore, a Mitsubishi Colt that normally cost JD14,650 before the reduction now costs JD11,300. Secondly, many believe that the postponement of

buying a new car for the year to come would result in an additional reduction of 10 per cent. But, according to the new law the reduction of 10 per cent is only applicable to used cars.

The Autocars and Spare Parts Association recently submitted a demand to the Ministry of Finance to reconsider its decision of not including new cars in the 10 per cent reduction if the model of the car becomes one year out-of-date.

Mr. Ayoubi hopes that the response of the Ministry of Finance will be positive since this will come to benefit both the customer and car com-

panies.

Thirdly, many are still anticipating a new reduction in custom duties on cars after rumours have spread indicating such a move. But Nadhmi Abdullah, head of the Customs Department, has denied that any further reduction is planned.

Many car dealers assume that these expectations and the difficult economic situation in the country are major factors in people's reluctance to buy cars.

Most car dealers contacted report that the year 1992 and 1993 were better in sales than 1994.

According to Mathhar Horani, sales manager at Ismail Belbeisi Company, 1994 was not significant in sales because of the unstable economic conditions that accompanied the changing political situation in the country and the low income of Jordanians.

Few car dealers saw 1994 as generally better in sales than the last few years.

Mr. Kakish of Arab East Auto Company said that his company sold 500 to 600 Opel cars in 1994 compared to 170 to 200 cars in 1993.

Mahmoud Naber, sales manager of General Jordanian Automobile Trading Company said that their sales in Honda tripled in 1994 compared to 1993.

Despite the difference of opinions among car dealers, they do all agree that the car sales has been difficult for all

car companies over the last few months, but hope that it will improve since the suspension is over after the customs duty reduction.

A review of the number of most popular cars on Jordanian streets:

Mercedes	31,663
Toyota	16,835
Opel	9,898
Lada	7,330
Datsun	7,242
Honda	6,873
Mitsubishi	6,507
Volkswagen	4,483
Mazda	4,308
Nissan	3,523
BMW	3,464
Peugeot	3,015
Renault	2,796
Chevrolet	2,289
Dodge	2,207
Fiat	2,093
Volvo	1,921
Hyundai	1,910
Daihatsu	1,787
Daewoo	1,738
Subaru	1,309

Among the least popular passenger cars in Amman:

Jaguar	90
Porsche	64
Rolls Royce	14
Ferrari	6
Others	11,128
Total	136,778

Some of the cheapest passenger cars in Jordan (base prices without options):

Car	Model	CC	Old price	New Price
Lada	2105	1500	JD6,500	JD5,500
Fiat	Sahin	1600	JD10,750	JD8,800
Renault	Clio	1600	JD12,000	JD9,850
Toyota	Terrel	1300	JD12,900	JD12,900
Suzuki	Swift	1300	JD12,250	JD9,700
Honda	Civic	1300	JD23,000	JD16,500
Mitsubishi	Colt	1300	JD14,650	JD11,300
Opel	Corsa	1200	JD13,750	JD11,500
Peugeot	306XR	1360	JD16,000	JD13,500
Zaz			JD5,200	JD3,900

Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close 10/11/95	Tokyo Close 11/11/95
Sterling Pound	1.5615	1.5620**
Deutsche Mark	1.5338	1.5333
Swiss Franc	1.2825	1.2860**
French Franc	5.2365	5.2940**
Japanese Yen	100.11	99.88
European Currency Unit	1.8350	1.8342**

* USD Per 100
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Date: 11/11/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.56	6.06	6.62	7.18
Sterling Pound	5.81	6.25	6.75	7.37
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.87	5.12	5.62
Swiss Franc	5.50	5.81	4.06	4.57
French Franc	5.57	5.75	6.25	6.75
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.25	2.51	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.75	6.12	6.43	7.06

Interbank bid rates for currency exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	575.35	7.55	Silver	4.69	0.110

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 11/11/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.7010
Sterling Pound	1.0908	1.0965
Deutsche Mark	0.4551	0.4574
Swiss Franc	0.5450	0.5457
French Franc	0.1318	0.1325
Japanese Yen	0.6988	0.7023
Dutch Guilder	0.4058	0.4076
Swedish Krona	0.0450	0.0452
Italian Lira	0.0450	0.0452
Belgian Franc	0.0450	0.0452

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 11/11/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharal Dinar	1.8390	1.8510
Lebanese Lira	0.041655	0.042935
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1872
Kuwait Dinar	2.5100	2.5600
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1992
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2140
Omani Riyal	1.8040	1.8160
UAE Dirham	0.1880	0.1908
Greek Drachma	0.2185	0.3115
Cypriot Pound	1.4185	1.5745

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.4114/24	Deutschemarks
1.5356/66	Dutch guilders
1.7222/32	Swiss francs
1.2860/70	Belgian francs
31.64/68	French francs
5.3020/70	Italian lire
1625.6/6.6	Japanese yen
99.92/02	Swedish crowns
7.5000/00	Norwegian crowns
6.7290/40	Danish crowns
6.0535/85	
\$1.5613/23	
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	\$374.95/375.35

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	320	58860	184.000	184.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	7075	30392	4.320	4.310
BANK OF JORDAN	17780	53681	3.020	3.010
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2300	6654	2.950	2.880
JORDAN KUNAITH BANK	2400	14230	5.810	5.800
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	8866	27027	3.060	3.060
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	8950	14250	1.610	1.610
BEIT KHALA SAVING/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	21356	76302	3.700	3.700
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	550	1408	2.600	2.520
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	550	1408	2.600	2.520
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	2600	4321	1.680	1.660
BANKS SECTOR	95884	374125	INDEX NUMBER: 139.13	CHANGE: +0.051
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	5956	14668	2.460	2.450
WELLY LAND INSURANCE	200	510	2.600	2.550
INSURANCE SECTOR	6184	15261	INDEX NUMBER: 137.21	CHANGE: +0.051
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	7025	10828	1.550	1.540
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	6080	9058	1.500	1.490
JORDANIAN MINERAL	3210	8924	2.800	2.800
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	13365	8365	6.250	6.200
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1700	5394	3.210	3.170
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	5450	6902	1.300	1.260
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	200	204	1.050	1.020
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALBAT	200	2570	12.800	12.380
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	56149	137918	2.480	2.420
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3350	11579	3.450	3.480
SERVICES SECTOR	113864	347321	INDEX NUMBER: 132.48	CHANGE: +1.512
JORDAN PHOSPHATE FACTORIES	18377	54261	2.950	2.960
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	740	1740	2.320	2.300
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	700	3850	5.500	5.500
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	438	4243	9.750	9.700
THE JORDAN HORSESHOE MILLS	4700	36702	7.950	7.750
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	22859	12423	5.450	5.300
JORDAN DAIRY	100	235	2.400	2.350
ARAB CHEMICAL ORTHERGENTS INDUSTRIES	200	3050	15.200	15.200
RAVIA INDUSTRIES	1950	5217	2.750	2.720
ORAL OIL OILS DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	11660	19463	16.500	16.450
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	22500	23156	1.050	1.030
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	650	4660	7.300	7.150
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	39871	37066	9.420	9.350
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2150	3066	1.420	1.410
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	500	2120	4.220	4.240
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	100	420	4.200	4.200
ALADIN INDUSTRIES	400	1808	4.560	4.550
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/INCO	5628	5628	1.770	1.740
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	59756	319682	5.300	5.350
JORDAN SUPER-CHROMALS	1050	2027	1.960	1.920
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	300	828	2.800	2.760
FAHNER INVESTMENT	4500	8085	1.770	1.740
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	400	1674	4.170	4.180
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6750	14298	2.140	2.150
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	207406	852941	INDEX NUMBER: 129.14	CHANGE: +0.442
GRAND TOTAL	423338	1599642	INDEX NUMBER: 144.73	CHANGE: +0.303
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	148910			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	230828			

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Cole signs for Manchester United in record-breaking deal

Sale brings frenzy of transfer speculation

LONDON (R) — Dennis Bergkamp, Matthew Le Tissier, Stan Collymore, Chris Armstrong, Les Ferdinand or Nick Barmby could be heading for Newcastle — if Wednesday's British newspapers are to be believed.

The British record transfer of Andy Cole from Newcastle to Manchester United Tuesday sent the papers into a frenzy of speculation as to how Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan will spend the 6.0 million pounds (\$9.38 million) cash settlement he received for the striker.

The total cost of the transfer is estimated at 7.0 million pounds (\$10.94 million) with teenager Keith Gillespie, who has moved from Manchester to Newcastle as part of the deal, valued at 1.0 million pounds (\$1.56 million).

"The sky is the limit," says the Daily Mail, who claim Inter Milan's Dutch international star Bergkamp tops Keegan's wanted list.

Bergkamp would like to play in England and Newcastle chairman Sir John Hall has been keen on him for a while. The snag up to now has been Bergkamp's wages, not the transfer fee.

"The Cole deal can change the Tyneside club's wages structure and pave the way for Bergkamp," according to the Mail.

The Express, however, claims: "Kevin Keegan will make an audacious move for Matt Le Tissier to cool Newcastle fans' anger over yesterday's sale."

"Despite denials from Southampton, the 5.0 million pounds (\$7.81 million) sale of their cult hero Le Tissier is an option Newcastle will hastily pursue."

The Daily Mirror says Keegan has no less than six targets — Crystal Palace's Armstrong, Queens Park Rangers' Ferdinand, Tottenham's Barmby, Dean Holdsworth of Wimbledon, Le Tissier and Nottingham Forest man Collymore, a Manchester United target before their swoop for Cole.

Meanwhile the Sun believes that having brought Cole to Old Trafford, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson will now recoup some funds by selling striker Mark Hughes

to Everton for 2.5 million pounds (\$3.91 million).

Most papers speculate on Cole's new wage package, with the Mirror claiming it will work out at 24,100 pounds (\$37,660) a week — comfortably the highest in British soccer — with a basic 12,000 pounds (\$18,750), rising to 14,000 pounds (\$21,880), a 750,000 pounds (\$1.17 million) signing-on bonus, a 600,000 pounds (\$937,600) cut of the fee because he didn't ask for a transfer and 2.0 million pounds (\$3.13 million) in personal endorsements and sponsorship deals.

"In addition," the paper says, "Cole will collect club bonuses for European, Title and Cup successes."

There is also plenty of comment on the move — and warnings for Ferguson should his purchase fail to live up to expectations.

"When Ferguson staked his reputation yesterday, he not only took football by storm but also unleashed upon Old Trafford the player who has failed to fulfil himself at three clubs. He must do so at his fourth," writes the Mail.

Writing in the Express, former Leeds star John Giles compares the purchase of Cole to that of Eric Cantona but warns: "Cole may not fit so snugly into the Old Trafford set-up."

"Whenever I have seen Cole I have admired his talent and exceptional goalscoring ability. But I have also disliked a moodiness, an attitude problem. His body language towards teammates left a lot to be desired."

Former Liverpool favourite and now BBC TV pundit Alan Hansen, writing in Today, predicts: "Alex Ferguson may have blown more than a massive hole in Manchester United's bank balance."

"It could be he has also blown the club's chance of winning their third successive championship."

"No matter how good Cole is, he'll take time to settle. And, just as importantly, Old Trafford's established stars will take time to understand what his game's all about."

"It could all be just too much for them in what is left of this season."

Osaka bids for 2008 Olympics

OSAKA (AFP) — Osaka wants to host the 29th Summer Olympic Games in 2008. Japan's second largest city would be competing against Beijing and Cape Town.

Mayor Masaya Nishio said Wednesday: "We believe there's no obstacle as it'll be 44 years after the Tokyo Olympics in 1964."

The main stadium and other facilities would be built on the man-made islands under construction in Osaka Bay, a 30-minute hydrofoil ride from Kansai International Airport.

Nishio said Beijing and Cape Town were their major rivals.

Blair, Koss, Morceli finalists for '95 Jesse Owens Award

NEW YORK (R) — American speed skater Bonnie Blair, Norwegian speed skater Johan Olav Koss and Algerian long distance runner Noureddine Morceli are the finalists for the 1955 Jesse Owens international trophy award, the award's founder, Herd Douglas, announced Tuesday.

Blair became the first American to win the same event in three consecutive Winter Olympics when she successfully defended her 500 metres title at the Lillehammer Games last year. Blair's victory in the 1,000 metres gave her a fifth

career Olympic gold medal, more than any female American Olympian.

Koss, who is also known for his humanitarian work, was a triple gold medal winner in Lillehammer. He became a national hero and international star by winning the 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000 metre events, all in world record time.

Morceli overcame a case of flu in Paris last September to claim the men's overall title for the Grand Prix athletics season. Morceli last year also added the 3,000 metres world record to the marks he holds at 1,500 metres and the

mile.

Koss and Blair were already named co-winners of Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year Award.

The Jesse Owens award, founded in 1980, is presented annually "to the athlete who best personifies excellence in athletic performance and promotes sincere cooperation and understanding among peoples of all nations."

The winner, selected by an international panel of electors, will be announced on January 17. The award will be presented on February 7 in New York.

Jordan Soccer League

Ahli face Wihdat, Arabi take on Hussein

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ramtha will be aiming for a win when they play Al Qadisiyah Thursday while hoping that Al Ahli will stage an upset over leaders Al Wihdat Friday in the 20th week of the First Division Soccer Championship.

With only 18 matches left in the Kingdom's most prestigious soccer competition, the remaining matches are of utmost importance to all teams as they struggle for the crown at the top of the standings while another battle continues at the other end of the relegation-threatened last four.

Al Hussein, who are third behind Al Wihdat and Al Ramtha, will be praying that their top rivals fumble while they meet eighth-placed Al Arabi in another match.

Al Jazireh and Kufusum, both of whom have managed to maintain a halfway standing will clash in another interesting clash.

In other matches, title-bidders Al Faisali meet last-placed Al Jeel, while Al Karmel play their lowly counterpart Shahab Al Hussein.

During the 19th week all teams demonstrated that they sense the seriousness of the standings and the results.

Al Wihdat's 1-0 win over Al Hussein was an important step towards the

crown which the team last won in 1991.

Veteran striker Ibrahim Sa'diyeh, a crowd favourite, netted his team's winning goal in the 40th minute.

Al Hussein's fans were upset when star striker Aref Hussein and Mohammad Shweiter both lost definite chances to equalise.

Al Hussein thus remained third with 28 points and will face Al Arabi, Al Jazireh and Al Faisali in their remaining matches.

* Kufusum's win over

Al Arabi further consolidated the newcomers team's position in the first division as they moved up to 6th place leaving Al Ahli to drop and near the danger zone.

Ihab Qawasmeh scored their only goal in the 51st minute, as Al Arabi lost a precious point and are now only one point away from Al Qadisiyah.

Al Arabi have three difficult upcoming matches against Al Ahli, Al Wihdat and Al Hussein.

* Al Faisali scored an

expected 3-0 victory over

Shahab Al Hussein who have already dropped back to the second division.

Mohammad Mahadin gave his team an early lead when he scored in the 2nd minute. Teammates Ja'far Hammad and Ziyad Abu Shanab added the second and third in the 36th and 60th minutes.

* Al Ramtha continued their impressive run with a 3-1 victory over Al Ahli who dropped to seventh.

Salim Diyab opened scoring for Al Ramtha in the 8th minute.

Amer Munib scored the equaliser in the 35th. Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib added the second goal in the 49th and raised his scoring record to 14 while teammate Khaled Al Agqouri netted the third in the 68th.

* Al Qadisiyah delighted their fans with a crushing and vital 4-0 win over Al Karmel, but must still score a win and hope that Al Arabi lose to avoid relegation.

The goals were scored by Maher Abu Hantash (10th), Ihab Qawasmeh (56th) and Mustafa Adam (65th and 67th).

Al Jazireh also scored a 4-0 victory over last-placed Al Jeel who now have the worst scoring record at 11-52.

Walid Fatafah opened scoring in the 26th minute. Ahmad Rashed added the second and third in the 34th and 80th and Simon Kheir sealed scoring in the 84th.

Schedule of 20th week:

*Thursday 12/1

Qadisiyah/Ramtha 2:30 p.m. Amman Stadium.

Friday 13/1

Arabi/Hussein 2:30 p.m. Hassan Stadium

Wihdat/Ahli 2:30 p.m. Amman Stadium

Shahab Al Hussein/Karmel 2:30 p.m. Petra Stadium

*Saturday 14/1

Jeel/Faisali 2:30 p.m. Amman Stadium

Standings before 20th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihdat	19	13	6	—	25	3	32
Ramtha	19	13	5	1	41	11	31
Hussein	19	13	2	4	46	20	28
Faisali	19	10	7	2	33	9	27
Jazireh	19	9	5	5	26	18	23
Kufusum	19	9	2	8	28	28	20
Ahli	19	7	5	7	25	27	19
Arabi	19	6	5	8	23	28	17
Qadisiyah	19	5	6	8	22	24	16
Shahab Al Hussein*	19	1	4	14	17	41	6
Karmel*	19	1	4	14	12	48	6
Jeel*	19	1	1	17	11	52	3

* Dropped to 2nd division

SPORTS IN BRIEF

NBA's Bullard signs with Greek club PAOK

ATHENS (R) — Former Houston Rockets power forward Matthew Bullard signed a five-month contract with Greek basketball club PAOK Salonika, club officials said Wednesday. Bullard replaces his countryman Gerrod Mostafar who will probably miss the rest of the season, including PAOK's European Club's Cup semifinal series matches, due to a leg injury. Details of Bullard's contract were not announced. He told reporters on arriving in Greece that he was looking forward to playing for PAOK and although tired from his trip he was ready to start training immediately.

Spurs struggle to keep Barmby

LONDON (AFP) — Tottenham manager Gerry Francis will fight to keep striker Nick Barmby even though he has known for some time that the England Under-21 star wants to move back closer to his family in the North of England. Francis, who has even offered Barmby a new contract, said here on Tuesday: "This is nothing to do with him being unhappy at Spurs. It is purely a domestic situation and I am doing all I can to keep him here because he is such a valuable player. Manchester United and Liverpool were among a group of top clubs who wanted to sign Barmby as a teenager and if Spurs lose their battle to keep him, he would be sure to bring in excess of three million pounds on the transfer market."

Balladur faces court date

PARIS (AFP) — Jean Nouvel, France's most famous architect, is taking the government of Edouard Balladur to court over the rejection of his design for the stadium to host the World Cup final in 1998. The architect's lawyer, Michel Hue, said Tuesday: "My client has been treated shabbily. If we can't get justice in France, we will go all the way to the European court." Nouvel designed an 80,000-seater stadium costing 2.1 billion francs (\$396 million) which was approved by 10 votes to four for its only rival during an open competition by a jury of experts in July. Since then, the government have backed down saying that Balladur's decision was only a "preliminary step," although the rival bid put forward by a team of four Paris architects has gone ahead with an application for planning permission.

Celtic sign giant Dutch striker

GLASGOW (R) — Celtic signed giant striker Pierre Van Hooydonk from Dutch club Nac Breda Tuesday. The 1.95 metres (six foot five inch) Dutchman, who has scored 114 goals in 182 games in Holland, has agreed a 3-1/2-year contract with Celtic. Celtic manager Tommy Burns said: "I'm delighted to sign a player of Pierre's undoubted ability. His record of 25 goals in 31 matches in the top Dutch League last season speaks for itself."

Honda plans \$380m track

TOKYO (R) — Honda Motor Co. Ltd. will start building a new 38 billion yen (\$380 million) motor sports track 100 km north of Tokyo this month. Called "Twin Ring Motegi," the 640 hectare motor sports and recreation park in the town of Motegi in Tochigi prefecture will open in the Spring of 1997. It will have a 4.85-km road course meeting international racing standards and a 2.4-km (1.5-mile) super speedway oval course. Honda said it will be the first track in the world with separate road and oval courses on the same site.

Thai cabinet decides on Asian Games sites

BANGKOK (AFP) — The Thai Cabinet has finally come up with a decision on sites for the 1998 Asian Games after long delays which had prompted the Olympic Council of Asia to threaten to move the event. "We cannot afford any more delay or else the project will not be completed in time," Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai said after his cabinet decided to spread the facilities over three widely-separated sites on the outskirts of Bangkok. The OCA last year expressed dismay at the delays and warned it might ask another country to take over the 1998 event.

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Knicks down Pacers

NEW YORK (R) — John Starks scored 31 points and made eight 3-pointers as the New York Knicks extended their season-high winning streak to seven games with a 117-105 defeat of the visiting Indiana Pacers Tuesday.

Starks tied his own team record with eight threes and scored 23 of his points in the second half.

"Right now I'm in a good rhythm," said Starks. Indiana marksman Reggie Miller scored 15 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, but did not match his showing in game five of last year's conference finals when he scored 25 points in the fourth quarter here.

Charles Smith scored 19 points for New York. Derek Harper had 16 points and a season-high 13 assists and Patrick Ewing scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half and had a season-high seven assists along with nine rebounds.

In Chicago, Scottie Pippen had 26 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his 14th career triple-double and the Bulls held Orlando to its lowest output of the season, downing the NBA-leading Magic.

The loss by Orlando was only its seventh of the season, but its third by 27 points or more. Orlando (26-7) still has the NBA's best record, just ahead of the Phoenix Suns (25-7).

Shaquille O'Neal led Orlando with 17 points. At Cleveland, Scott Burrell hit a key 3-pointer with 1:01 left in overtime as Muggsy Bogues scored six of his 16 points in the extra session as the Charlotte Hornets won their franchise-record sixth straight, 116-108 over the Cavaliers.

Alonzo Mourning scored 25 points and Larry Johnson added 24 for the surging Hornets, who improved to a franchise-best eight games over .500 (20-12).

Tyrone Hill scored 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Terrell Brandon had 22 points and 13 assists for the Cavs.

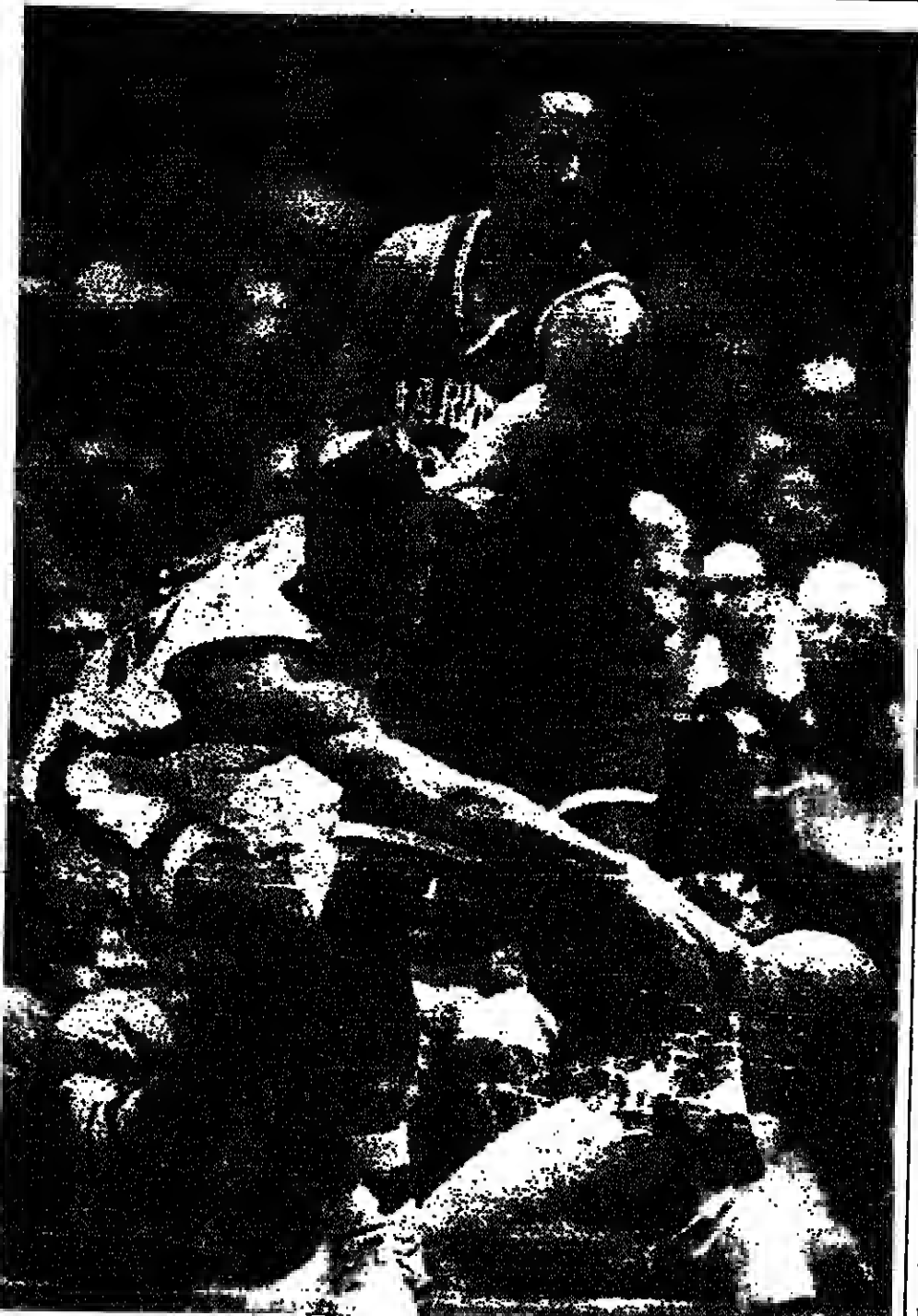
Cleveland played without all-star guard Mark Price for the second straight game because of a sprained right foot. At Golden State, Sam Perkins sank two game-tying free throws with 1.3 seconds left in regulation, then hit 3-pointers as the Seattle SuperSonics scored the eight points in overtime to beat the reeling Warriors 128-118.

Delf Schrempf scored season-high 33 points and Shawn Kemp added 27 for Seattle, which finished its five-game road trip at 4-1. Perkins finished with 21 points with a Seattle season-high five 3-pointers.

Chris Mullin returned to the lineup to score 23 points for Golden State. He had missed the first 29 games with a chip fracture of his left knee.

In San Antonio, David Robinson had 33 points to lead the Spurs to a 108-97 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

San Antonio, which has won five straight and 12 of its last 13, got 21 rebounds and 10 points from Dennis Rodman.



P.J. Brown of the New Jersey Nets lunges for a loose ball around Charlotte Hornets' Alonzo Mourning (AFP photo)

FIFA axe two directors

ZURICH (AFP) — FIFA president Joao Havelange sacked media chief Guido Tognoni Tuesday one month after being forced to make a public apology for an embarrassing blunder committed by the official.

FIFA competitions director Miguel Galan was also axed in what general secretary Joseph Blatter described as a reorganisation of FIFA's general secretariat.

Tognoni infuriated Havelange when he publicly attacked Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer in December. Havelange asked German Football Federation president Egidius Braun to transmit his personal apologies to Beckenbauer.

Galan is thought to have opposed a number of appointments made by Havelange at FIFA's recent executive meeting in New York. Blatter said there had been a "breakdown" between FIFA and the two officials.

Galan and Tognoni, apart from Blatter, are among the few senior FIFA officials to have survived the changes brought in by Havelange in New York. Galan was appointed by Havelange in 1982 and Tognoni took up his post in 1984.

Tognoni attacked Beckenbauer for criticising a FIFA ruling under which one of his players, after receiving treatment on the touchline, was sent off when he returned to the field during a league match without informing the referee.

Walter Gagg, FIFA's technical department chief, will run Galan's department and Blatter himself will oversee the public relations and media department.

Argentina play Denmark in Intercontinental Cup final

RIYADH (AFP) — Argentina play Denmark in the Intercontinental Cup final after holding Nigeria to a goalless draw Tuesday.

The European champions were lucky to reach Friday's final by beating Mexico on penalties earlier Tuesday and Argentina were no less fortunate to scrape through against the African champions.

Nigeria, seeking revenge for their 2-1 World Cup defeat in the United States last summer, should have been two goals up at half time.

Efan Ekoku, the former Norwich City player now with Birmingham, glanced a header wide after just 10 minutes when Eintracht Frankfurt's Jay Jay Okocha freed him in the box with a sensational cross.

With 20 minutes gone midfielder Mutiu Adegboye shot from 25 yards, forcing keeper Carlos Bossio to scramble the ball off his line.

Argentina had to clear a Dan Amokachi header off the line just five minutes of the half left, though the Everton striker was harshly

judged to have fouled the goalkeeper in the process.

Argentina's only serious chance fell to Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta, but his drive was deflected and keeper Peter Rufai smothered it at full stretch.

After the break the Nigerians ran out of steam and new coach Daniel Passarella's Argentina took control.

The side who have beaten Chile, Romania and Yugoslavia since the World Cup and opened their campaign here with a 5-1 win over Japan only needed to draw to reach the final.

But they could have done better, with Hugo Perez firing a free-kick onto the bar with keeper Peter Rufai completely beaten after 64 minutes.

Nigeria go into the third place play-off against Mexico who thought they had beaten Denmark with only two minutes to go.

Striker Luis Garcia scored in the 70th minute, but the lead was cancelled out in the 88th minute. Peter Rasmussen climbed above two defen-

ders to head home and then Denmark went on to win the penalty shoot-out 4-2.

Substitute goalkeeper Mogens Krogh, the villain of the piece earlier on, saved the final penalty from top striker Luis Garcia to see through Europe's best 4-2 on spotkicks.

But they hardly deserved it, outplayed for most of the 1-1 Group A match by the central America champions and only levelling with two minutes of the match to go.

Denmark, who also beat the Saudis 2-0, began the match with a rasping 25m shot over the bar from overlapping full-back Jes Hogg in the opening seconds and midfielder Carsten Hemmingsen.

But they struggled from then on as Mexico, relying on neat interpassing, dominated territorially.

Laudrup — Brian this time — surfaced soon after the break, escaping down the left and forcing Jorge Campos to tip the ball round the post.

But that was their last attacking move before Rasmussen's last-gasp face-saver.

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♠ 10 9 7

♥ 10 9 7 2

♦ 8 4

♣ 3 3

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♠ K 8 6 4

♥ A J 3

♦ 9 8 4

♣ A 10

SOUTH

♠ 10 9 7 5 4

♥ 2

♦ A Q 3

♣ K Q J 7 6 3

♠ A 8 2

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♠

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♠

3 ♠ Pass Pass 3 ♠

4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ 5 ♠

5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ 6 ♠

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